Pittsfield (MA) Parks Department Scrapbooks

Scanned through a Pittsfield Community Preservation Act Grant 2021

Pittsfield Parks Department Scrapbook 1983

FEB 25 1983

Springside land to be auctioned

A plan to seek closed bids on the purchase of four pieces of land that were once part of Springside Park has been scuttled because the law requires them to be sold at public auction.

Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr., who chairs the city's committee on disposal of surplus city property, told the City Council Tuesday that the legal requirement was discovered that afternoon.

He sought and received Council authorization for his committee to set minimum bids.

Another Cheever request, that abutters who submit winning bids be allowed to pay on the installment plan, was sent to the city solicitor for a ruling. Cheever said that time payments might increase the likelihood that abutters will be able to enter competitive bids.

Only two of the parcels are large enough for building lots. The others are narrow strips. All four were isolated from Springside Park when Springside Avenue was extended.

MAR 8 1983

City to auction four lots

The city will auction four pieces of Springside Avenue land March 19 at 10 a.m. at the Department of Parks and Recreation headquarters building in Springside Park.

Edward Ziemba, city auctioneer, will conduct the sale. Successful bidders will be required to pay 10 percent of the purchase price on the spot. If they wish, the city will let them pay the rest in installments over three years at 6 percent interest.

The four parcels, the end lots on Pine Street, Grove Street and Glenwood Avenue, were once part of Springside Park. They were marooned when Springside Avenue was extended through the park.

Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr., who chairs the committee charged with disposing of the land, said the committee has set a minimum acceptable price for each parcel.

The largest, designated Parcel A, is off Pine Street and contains close to an acre — about 34,000 square feet. Its assessed value is $7,110 and the bid floor has been set at $3,500.

Parcel B is a wedge-shaped lot of about 11,000 square feet between Grove Street and Glenwood Avenue. It is assessed at $2,450. The minimum price is $950.

Parcel C, a 18,700-square-foot lot at the corner of Grove Street and Springside Avenue, is cut diagonally by a sewer easement 20 feet wide. That means no permanent structure can be built on the 20-foot strip. Parcel C has an assessed value of $5,734 and a minimum sales price of $2,800.

Parcel D is a neat rectangle at the corner of Glenwood Avenue containing 9,300 square feet. Ledge possibly underlies the property. Its assessed value is $4,895, and the minimum bid is $2,500.

Cheever said that although buyers may divide the lots as they wish after purchase, the city will sell each as a unit.

MAR 8 1983

CITY OF PITTSFIELD
OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ROOM 225, CITY HALL
70 ALLEN STREET
PITTSFIELD, MA. 01201

The Office of Community and Economic Development, acting on behalf of the Closed Buildings Committee hereby announces that a Public Auction will be held for the sale of 4 parcels of land located on Springside Avenue and formerly part of Springside Park. Minimum Bids have been established for all 4 parcels:

1. Parcel "A"
Assessed Value $7,110.00
Minimum Bid $3,500.00
2. Parcel "B"
Assessed Value $2,450.00
Minimum Bid $950.00
3. Parcel "C"
Assessed Value $5,734.00
Miminum Bid $$2,800.00
4. Parcel "D"
Assessed Value $4,895.00
Minimum Bid $2,500.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All lots will be sold on an as is basis only. Bids must be for the whole parcel. A 10% non-refundable deposit is required at the close of auction.

The City offers an installment purchase plan, if necessary, for 3 years at 6% interest to all successful bidders.

DATE AND PLACE
SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1983
10:00 A.M.
PARK HEADQUARTERS
874 NORTH STREET
PITTSFIELD, MA.
448-8274

Information and maps can be obtained at the Office of Community and Economic Development, Room 225, City Hall, 70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Monday-Friday. 499-1100, extension 57.

MAR 9 1983

Permit voted to allow Clapp Park parking lot

The Planning Board has voted unanimously to issue a special permit to the Park Department to clear the way for construction of a parking lot at Clapp Park.

The unpaved parking area will be built by J.H. Maxymillian Inc. of Lanesboro at no cost to the city. It will be created with fill that Maxymillian will excavate while working on an Army Corps of Engineers flood-protection project at the rear of the park.

A permit was required because the area to be filled is in a 100-year flood plain.

Assistant Planner Robert S. Mellace, who told the board there will be a net increase in flood storage area of 680 cubic yards, observed that the parking lot project will benefit both the contractor and the city.

The contractor won't have to truck away the fill, and the Park Department is getting a free parking lot, he said.

Parks Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert said the parking area is needed because high curbing will be installed along West Housatonic Street when it is reconstructed, so cars will no longer be able to jump the curb to park on the grass. In addition, he said, the lot should alleviate heavy traffic on Hollister Street, which has prompted many complaints from neighbors.

Although there was no opposition to the special permit, William C. Michaels of 52 Fairfield St. attended the hearing to enlist the support of the Planning Board for the removal of an abandoned sewer pipe under the South Street bridge.

He explained that the Housatonic River is in his backyard and that he had been told that the flood-protection project, which involves the installation of three culvert pipes at the rear of Clapp Park, will increase the rate of water flow and the possibility of flooding.

The Conservation Commission, in the order of conditions it gave the city, recommended that the sewer pipe be removed, but no funds have been allocated for the work.

Planning Board members suggested that Michaels contact his city councilor and write to the mayor to urge that funds be appropriated.

Winter sports board will elect officers

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will nominate and elect officers for 1983-84 at its final meeting of the season tomorrow evening at 7:30 at Springside House.

Committee chairmen are requested to submit their final reports at the meeting.

A banquet will be held Friday at Latshaw's Restaurant.

MAR 8 1983

28—The Berkshire Eagle, Friday, March 11, 1983

Nine groups show interest in Adopt-a-Park program

Nine groups have expressed interest in "adopting" neglected city parks, playgrounds, squares and median strips under the Citizens Volunteer Alliance's latest brainchild — an Adopt-a-Park program.

The Park Department's Citizens Volunteer Alliance has been exploring ways to supervise and maintain playgrounds and parks in the face of dwindling funds.

Michele Depew, coordinator of the group, is preparing a brochure to explain the program and plans to take her plea for park "parents" to organizations throughout the city.

She said she was surprised and "very excited" about the initial response to a brief story about the program that appeared in The Eagle on Feb. 17.

Organizations that adopt parks will be expected to hold cleanup days in the spring and fall and to check the areas weekly for broken glass, debris and playground equipment in need of repair.

Showing interest

Groups that have indicated their interest so far are the Boy Scouts, the Berkshire Center for Families and Children, the Berkshire Flying Club, Berkshire Chapter 65 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Highpoint School, the Key Program, Civil Defense, the North End Association of Trade and Berkshire Community Action Council.

Playgrounds up for adoption are Crane, Raymond Crow, Wilson, Dorothy Amos, Pitt, Tucker, Lebanon, Egremont, Lakewood, Allen Heights and West Memorial.

Parks are Sackett Brook, Welles-ley, Pomeroy River, South Street Memorial, Deming, Yankee Orchard, Brattlebrook, Clapp, the First Street Common and the Springside zoo.

Other areas are Park Square, the West Street Cemetery, the Dunham Mall and median strips, squares and traffic islands at Allengate Avenue, Allendale Circle, Appleton Avenue, Dower Square, East Street, Elm and High streets, First and North streets, Maplewood Avenue, Marlboro Drive and Cambridge Avenue, Honasada Terrace, Sampson Parkway, South Street, Newell Street and Ensign Avenue.

Ms. Depew is also organizing a Park Watch program, under which neighborhoods would be on the lookout for acts of vandalism, and is seeking volunteer leaders so that the annual summer playground program can continue.

Pittsfield nets $19,150 on sales of 4 plots near Springside Park

By Judy Katz

A land auction Saturday netted Pittsfield a total of $19,150 for four pieces of land across from Springside Park. Two of the lots sold for more than their assessed value. The other two went for the minimum the city had announced it would accept.

"It went well," said Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr. "We made money and we sold all the parcels."

Cheever chairs the city's Closed Buildings Committee, which was charged with disposing of the land and arranging the auction. He said he was suprised, but pleasantly so, at the success of the sale.

An earlier Department of Parks and Recreation attempt to sell the four parcels, once part of the park but marooned when Springside Avenue was extended, flopped because the bids — which then ranged from $300 to $850 — were unacceptably low.

Cheever said that an 18,700-square-foot lot at the corner of Grove Street and Springside Avenue brought the top price, $8,000. He said the buyers are Douglas F. and Nicole Pierce of Savoy Road, Windsor. The lot, which carried a minimum price of $2,800, is assessed at $5,734.

Almost an acre

The largest parcel, almost an acre of land off Pine Street, was purchased by Louis W. and Nora Marcel of 34 Albro St. for $7,700. That lot has an assessed value of $7,110 and the minimum acceptable bid was set at $3,500.

A wedge-shaped lot between Grove Street and Glenwood Avenue, containing about 11,000 square feet, went to abutters Richard and Ellen Eldridge of 73 Grove St. for the minimum bid of $950. The land is assessed at $2,450.

Cheever said the Eldridges told him they plan to fence and plant the land rather than building upon it.

Also selling for the minimum price, in this case $2,500, was a 9,300-square-foot rectangular lot at the corner of Glenwood Avenue. The buyers, Cheever said, are James M. Torra and Ronald DeAngelis of James Building & Remodeling, 20 Taconic St.

The 10 a.m. auction was conducted by city auctioneer Edward Ziemba. Each successful bidder made a down payment equal to 10 percent of the purchase price. In an attempt to make it easier for abutters interested in the parcels to enter competitive bids, the city offered to allow buyers to pay the full amount over three years at 6 percent interest.

Cheever said that none of the buyers has yet filled out installment-purchase forms but that he expects them to take advantage of the installment plan.

Some abutters, he said, were unhappy that they could not obtain preferential treatment because they had, in some cases, cleaned litter from the lots and tried to keep them tidy for years.

But, he said, the city's hands were tied. The law that permitted the park land to be sold required that it be done by open auction.

MAR 21 1983

MAR 29 1983

Parkland lease is barred by law

The Berkshire Hills Country Club's proposal to lease a piece of city parkland for a driving range for its members apparently isn't going to make it to the first tee.

Parks Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert told the Park Commission last night that he had been informed by the city solicitor that the plan isn't feasible because federal funds were used to purchase the parcel, which is across Benedict Road from the Berkshire Hills clubhouse.

Regulations prohibit leasing parkland purchased with federal funds to any private organization, Hebert said.

He added that a letter to that effect will be sent to the country club as soon as City Solicitor Edward M. Reilly puts his ruling in writing.

Park Commission backs landfill softball project

The Park Commission voted last night to go to bat for the Berkshire County Softball Complex Inc., which needs city backing to apply for a $25,000 federal grant to improve its facilities at the former landfill off East Street.

Matching grants of 50 percent are available from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, but under the federal requirements, the city would have to furnish the up-front money for the $50,000 project.

If the application is approved, the non-profit softball association would pay half the cost of the improvements and the federal agency would reimburse the city for the remainder, Park Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert told the commission last night.

Hebert said assistant city planner Robert S. Mellace is helping prepare the application, which must be submitted by April 15.

Berkshire County Softball Complex Inc., which has a 10-year lease with the city to use the property, plans to purchase lights for two ballfields, blacktop the entrance to the facility, erect six dugouts, and install fencing and equipment for a children's playground.

Members of the Park Commission, noting that the improvements would be made at no cost to the city, voted to recommend to the City Council and the mayor that the $50,000 be provided.

MAR 29 1983

Park board awards concession contracts

The Park Commission last night awarded contracts for concessions at Onota and Pontoosuc lakes and Wahconah Park to the sole bidders.

The summer concession stands at the lakes will be operated by Ernest C. Ferry of 261 East Housatonic St., Dalton, who will pay $125 for each. Recreation Director John C. Marchesi noted that there were no bidders for the lake concessions last year or the year before.

The Wahconah Park concession was awarded to Lloyd Hughes Jr. of Leslie Avenue, Lanesboro, who operated it last year. Hughes bid $300 to run the concession from May to December.

Bids were opened March 22.

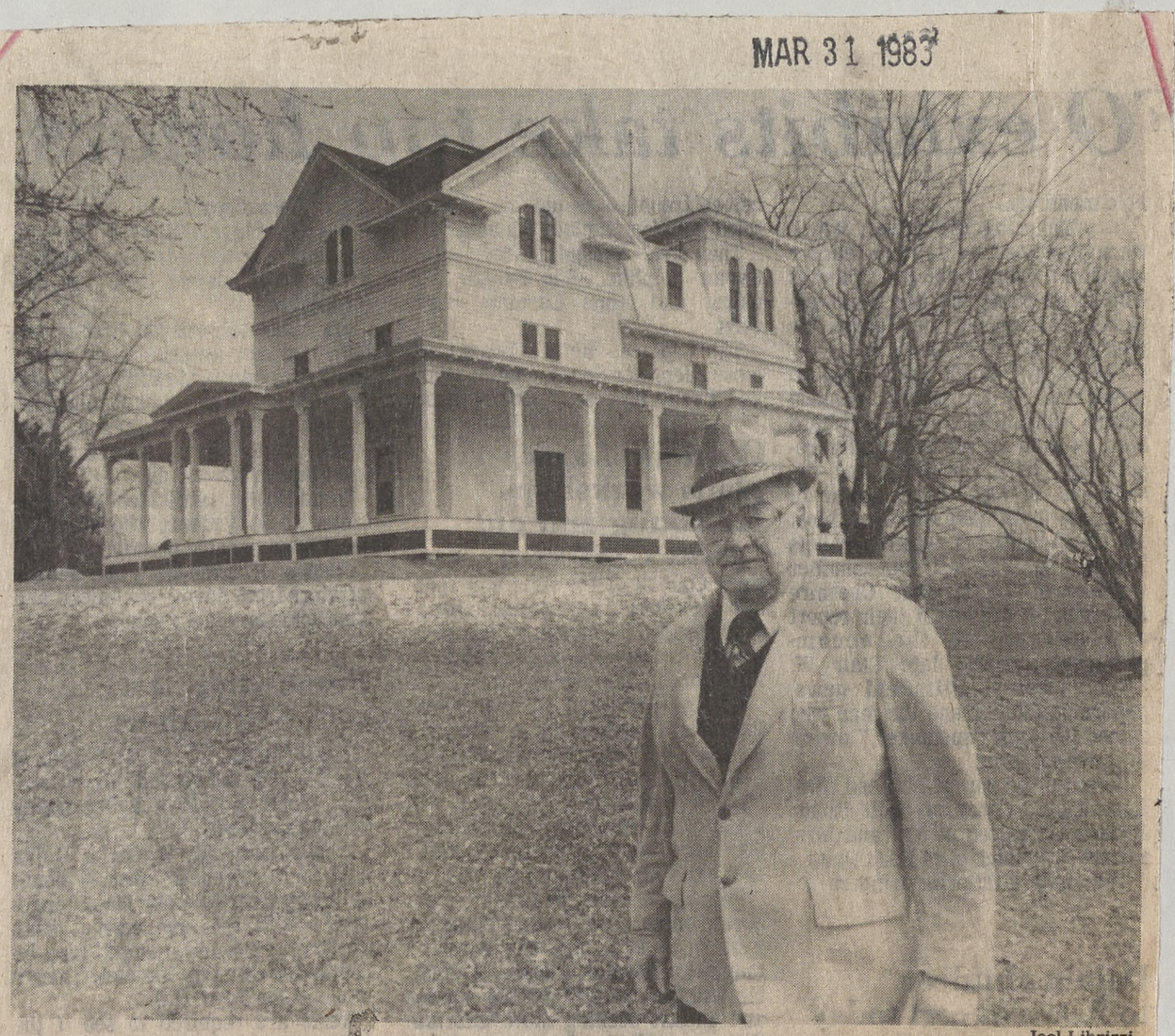
MAR 29 1983

Abolition posed for Park Dept.

Elimination of Pittsfield's Department of Parks and Recreation and the shift of its functions to new agencies is proposed in the city government study conducted by the Washington, D.C., firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget. See Page 13 for the fourth in a series of six stories on the study.

MAR 31 1983

MAR 31 1983



Joel Librizzi

PARK DEPT. CHIEF Vincent J. Hebert stands in front of the Springside House that is his home and headquarters for his operation. The Cresap recommendation is to eliminate the department and transfer its functions to new city agencies.

MAR 31 1983

Cresap would erase Park Dept., shift functions to new agencies

This is the fourth in a series of six stories on the major recommendations in the Pittsfield city government reorganization study done by the Washington, D.C., firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget.

By Judy Katz

A laying hen and a fat turkey were discussing Thanksgiving. The turkey complained, "All they want from you is a contribution. From me, they want total commitment."

The Cresap report calls for that kind of total commitment from the Department of Parks and Recreation. If the Washington, D.C., consultants' recommendations for the rest of city government are adopted, most of the affected departments will shift, shrink or even shrivel. The Department of Parks and Recreation will cease to exist, although the services it now provides will continue.

The Department of Public Buildings, renamed the Department of Maintenance, would become park caretaker.

That leaves recreation. It would come under a new Department of Community Affairs, created by merging recreation programs with related social services — the Council on Aging, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Veterans Services. The executive director of the Council on Aging would be the department head.

One of the most radical changes in the Cresap proposal is for the institution of a fee system to make parks and swimming areas financially self-sufficient.

The consultants figure they will save Pittsfield about $104,000 on its recreation bill. About half the savings comes from abolishing the jobs of the superintendent of parks and recreation and his director of recreation.

The rest comes from hiring park police only to help out with special events such as parades and charging fees for activities that require seasonal paid help. Seasonal workers swell the Park Department's roster of 13 full-time and 20 part-time permanent employees by 94.

Park police would no longer patrol lakes; instead, city police would swing by as part of their regular beats.

In the report, the consultants appear to call for putting 65-year-old Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert out of his house as well as out of his job. Hebert lives in Springside House, the Park Department headquarters, rent-free as a fringe benefit.

The consultants want the Springside House apartment rented out to generate revenue. They say that "free living quarters in the Springside Park headquarters building should no longer be a perquisite of any city employment position." But Cresap Vice President William G. Evans did tell the City Council that "the present occupant could be grandfathered in."

Transfers for most employees

While Park Department heads would roll, most lower-level workers would be moved, not lopped off. The recreation staff of two would work for the Department of Community Affairs. Three of nine park maintenance workers would lose their jobs, a $54,000 savings, but six would report to the Department of Maintenance along with forestry and garage workers who now belong to the Department of Public Works.

Putting all maintenance in one departmental basket would mean better coordination of staff and equipment, the consultants say. "For example, the parks maintenance crew will be able to use the forestry crew's bucket truck during the workday, instead of after hours on overtime as is the current practice."

The city should also renegotiate labor contracts to eliminate the five hours of guaranteed overtime for parks workers, the consultants advise. Seasonal laborers can be hired in late spring and summer when the outdoor workload peaks. The full timers can help other crews in fall and winter.

No fees for handicapped

Perhaps the most radical recommendation is to make all recreation programs, with the single exception of the summer playground program at Highland School for handicapped children, self-supporting through fees or grants.

"Program offerings should be advertised along with their fees," the Cresap report states. "Those that attract sufficient numbers of participants to be self-supporting should be conducted and those that do not should be canceled."

The program offerings would include playgrounds staffed with paid recreation leaders in the summer, a tradition slated for extinction under Proposition 2½. The first-year fee the consultants suggest for the service is $25 per child.

At beaches, the charge would be by the car. The amount would be set to cover the full cost of staff and maintaining buildings, grounds and equipment. Fees for softball, baseball, football and soccer should be hiked to would cover all costs, saving about $11,200.

Cresap, McCormick & Paget consider the Council on Aging and RSVP, two other components of the new community affairs department, trim enough already. But they advocate saving $13,000 by cutting a senior clerk from Veterans Services. Veterans Services only needs the extra clerk at peak times, they say, and could draw temporary help from nearby City Hall offices during annual or quarterly case reviews.

Park board delays action on fee issue

APR 5 1983

By Judy Katz

The shadow of the Cresap report cut short last night's Park Commission discussion of fees for park recreation activities.

Commission member Clifford J. Nilan suggested tabling the issue soon after it came up on the commission agenda. "I think we can put it off," he said, "until we see what action the City Council will take on the [Cresap] report."

The Cresap, McCormick & Paget report on city government management recommends that virtually all park activities that require paid staff be self-supporting through fees.

Nilan declared that he opposes fees and charges for recreation programs "unless it's absolutely necessary — and I don't think we're at that point yet."

Before the fee question was tabled, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert said he believes the department can set its own schedule of charges within the framework of its present operations. The Cresap report recommends eliminating the department and assigning its functions to two other city agencies.

Hebert and commission member Roger B. Sloper recalled that plans to charge visitors who drive to Burbank Park on Onota Lake $1 a car were reviewed last year. Because a building would be needed to house the fee collector, Hebert said, the proposal was put off until the spring.

Hebert is scheduled to discuss the Cresap report recommendations for the Parks Department with the City Council Thursday night. He had supplied park commissioners with copies of written objections he submitted to the Council, and some commissioners offered suggestions for strengthening his case.

Commissioner Alma Arlos told Hebert, "You didn't go far enough. You have to give your reasons. You have to justify the activities in terms of their benefit to young people."

Hebert said that among proposed changes he finds objectionable is a recommended cutback in the use of park police. "There is a definite relation, as far as I'm concerned," he said, "between the quality of life in Pittsfield and good, safe parks."

APR 5 1983

Park board accepts offer of Clapp Park parking lot

The Parks Commission last night voted to accept a contractor's offer to build — at no cost to the city — a permanent access road and parking lot in Clapp Park.

The offer was first made in January by Paul E. "Jack" Laviolette Jr., project superintendent for contractor J.H. Maxymillian. The Parks Commission waited to make a decision until members could tour the site, discuss the plans in detail and obtain clearance for construction of the parking lot in a flood plain from the Planning Board.

Maxymillian was awarded a $376,000 Army Corps of Engineers contract for a flood-prevention project at the rear of the park. The contract specifies that access to the work site will be through the park. Since the 20-foot-wide gravel access road must be solid enough to carry heavy equipment, it will be usable later for park activities.

By filling a low area near the construction site to create the parking lot, the contractor avoids having to truck away fill and helps solve a chronic lack of parking space at Clapp.

Even though the road and lot are free, the Parks Department will have to spend money for a protective fence. Laviolette said Maxymillian is prepared to install a 4-foot-high fence 440 feet long for $2,000.

The fence will be needed for safety because the road will pass next to the running track at the western boundary of the park.

Laviolette told the Parks Commission that the flood-prevention project, which involves installing three pipes, 8 feet in diameter and 456 feet long under the Penn Central railroad tracks adjacent to the southeast boundary of the park, is slated to begin April 15.

Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert said he had hoped construction could be delayed until mid-June, so that school soccer, track and baseball events could be held at Clapp as usual. But, he said, he has since learned that the state Department of Public Works requires the April starting date.

Laviolette said it is essential to start on time because the contract requires the work to be completed during this construction season.

JAN 18 1982

Three named area leaders in King campaign

The Committee to Re-elect Edward J. King Governor yesterday named three Berkshire campaign coordinators, two of whom are probation officers.

The overall coordinator for Berkshire County is Albert Ingegni of Pittsfield. He has been associated with the Offenders Advocacy, an agency recently wiped out for lack of federal funds.

Coordinator for Central Berkshire is Clifford J. Nilan of Pittsfield, chief probation officer of the Berkshire Superior Court. Nilan was a King activist in the campaign of 1978.

Pittsfield coordinator is John Walsh of 26 Bishop Parkway. Walsh, who is probation officer at the Adams District Court, was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for state senator in 1980.

Ingegni is a son-in-law of former Pittsfield Mayor Remo Del Gallo, chairman of the Democratic City Committee. Del Gallo said yesterday that Ingegni's appointment should not be construed as a commitment from him to any of three Democratic candidates for governor.

"I am keeping at arm's length at this time from all the candidates," Del Gallo said.

The appointments were announced this week by Peter Y. Flynn of Bridgewater, sheriff of Plymouth County, who is Gov. King's campaign manager.

APR 8 1983

Hebert, Bolduc decry impact of Cresap study

By Judy Katz

Spokesmen for the two departments with the most to lose if Cresap report recommendations are adopted declared last night that the recommendations are wrongheaded and invite catastrophe.

Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert, reading a prepared statement with the vigor of a coach addressing a rally before a championship game, paused to tell the City Council, "If I'm a little emotional, it's because this is a survival presentation."

Management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget recommended disbanding the Park Department and turning its functions over to two other city agencies. If that goes through, Hebert, who is 65 but has said he has no interest in retirement, will lose the job he has held for about 30 years.

The other victim

The Cresap report also calls for eliminating the bulk of the Health Department, including the laboratory and almost all the school nurses. "If we can't afford this [the laboratory], by all means close it," said Health Commissioner Louis A. Bolduc, whose wife is the laboratory bacteriologist. "But I would not recommend it as your commissioner of health."

Bolduc said that cutting the school nurse program would make it impossible for the city to comply with state regulations allowing only nurses to administer psychotropic, behavior-modifying drugs and requiring communities to screen schoolchildren for scoliosis, or curvature of the spine.

He did not know how many children are on psychotropic medicine, but his nurses — who were present in force at last night's special Council meeting — did. They prompted him, saying there are 17 in eight schools.

All the children must get their medicine before lunch on days when it is prescribed, Bolduc said.

He also said that although school personnel are trained in first aid, fear of lawsuit might make them hesitate to aid an injured or ill child if a school nurse was not available to be consulted by telephone.

The Cresap report stated that the city could meet state requirements for school nurses even if five were eliminated. Mary Mikutovicz of the Massachusetts School Nurse Association, spokesman for the nurses, warned that "when you are in compliance with state regulations, you are meeting the minimal requirements. It doesn't mean you have the best program."

Fee collection suggested

Councilors suggested that charges might be made for services such as strep throat cultures to help defray laboratory costs. Bolduc said collecting fees from insurance companies or the public would be too complicated, adding that "the laboratory staff are professional people, not money changers."

Without specifying the number involved, he said some doctors had told him they would not pay if billed. He said one told him he would send cultures to another lab and order fewer.

Pittsfield now contracts with Richmond and Lanesboro to perform laboratory services at a flat rate of 77 cents a head based on population. That entitles the towns to all lab services. Bolduc said the fee recovers some, but not all, costs.

Speaking for the Park Commission, Acting Chairman Paula Virgilio said the commission considers merging the Park Department, Council on Aging, RSVP and Veterans Services (as recommended in the Cresap report) feasible — "but under the auspices of the Park Department."

Hebert boomed that "with 33 years of experience, to have three months of experts come to town and tell us that the Department of Parks and Recreation should be disbanded is hard to take."

He ran down the list of jobs the reorganization would eliminate and said each is indispensable. The consultants, he said, "were not here during our peak performance times. They didn't see any maintenance guys out there in sub-zero weather making ice."

That reminded him that the consultants expressed doubts about the value of making ice for skating. "I think all recreation activities are vital for the city of Pittsfield," he declared, knocking a radio reporter's microphone to the floor in his excitement.

Any savings from reducing the number of park police, he warned, would be more than erased by increased costs of vandalism, court cases and perhaps even loss of life.

Possibility of fees

While Hebert doesn't like the idea of charging fees to make recreation activities self-sufficient, he said, he realizes that is the coming trend. The Park Department can initiate its own fee schedule without changes in its structure, he said.

When he praised the Cresap report in general and said that "there are phases of the report that are fantastic," At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos interjected with a laugh, "The parts that are fantastic have to do with other departments, right?"

Hebert, who called for training programs, courses and seminars to allow city workers to upgrade management without consultants, ended by quoting Alexander Pope: "Be not the first by whom the new are tried,/Nor yet the last to lay the old aside." "Don't move too fast," he added.

The City Council had already heard similar messages from the fire, police and public works departments during its nightly Cresap report discussion sessions with department heads and union leaders.

Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi repeated what he has said each night: that no changes and no cuts are not an option because the budget forbids maintaining the status quo.

"Unfortunately, we're forced to make some cuts," he said. "The Cresap report is just a tool in helping us in trying to decide where to prioritize and where to cut" in the city's quest for ways to provide services for less.

Plaque accepted for display in Park Square

The Park Commission voted unanimously last night to accept a proposal to recess a commemorative plaque in the west side of the Park Square fountain.

The plaque, donated by Berkshire Museum curator of science Bartlett Hendricks, identifies Park Square as the site of the first agricultural fair in America and the Pittsfield elm.

Recessing the plaque into the concrete fountain, said Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert, would protect it from vandalism while keeping the appearance of the park uncluttered.

APR 26 1983



Susan Plageman

Moment in the sun

APR 7 1983

Robert M. Kelly and his wife, Mary Tyer Kelly, of Lee take advantage of yesterday's warm sunshine to enjoy a picnic lunch on Park Square. Mrs. Kelly works at the Berkshire County Extension Service. Her husband is self-employed. Temperatures rose to a high of 57 yesterday.

Peace rally slated

APR 26 1983

Peace organizations in Berkshire County, together with similar groups from elsewhere in Western Massachusetts, are planning a peace rally Saturday in Pittsfield and a forum the following Tuesday on U.S. policies in Central America.

The speakers at the forum will include a representative of the Democratic Revolutionary Front in El Salvador, Arnoldo Ramos, who will come to Pittsfield from New York City for the occasion, said Larry Weaner of Austerlitz, N.Y., one of the forum organizers.

Also at the speakers' table will be Nola Reinhardt, a professor of economics at Smith College who is an expert on Central American affairs, along with a representative from the government of Nicaragua, said Gerald J. Fresia of Amherst, another organizer.

The forum will be at the Girls Club at 7:30 p.m. and will permit questions from spectators.

The Saturday rally will begin at noon at the parking lot of the former shopping center at East, Elm and Fourth streets and will move to Park Square for a speaking, theater and music program at 1 p.m.

Weaner said people are expected to come here not only from the Berkshires but Eastern New York and the Connecticut Valley region of Western Massachusetts. Fresia said several people plan to walk to the rally, one group from Northampton and another from Williamstown.

Sponsors are People for Peace of Central and South Berkshire, Williamstown Central American Concerns Committee, Pittsfield Ad Hoc Organizing Committee and a number of others, including Western Massachusetts People's Alliance.

4.

'Keep-off-grass' condition attached to Park Square use for peace rally

By Judy Katz

Like the nursery-song girl whose mother gave her permission to go swimming but not to go near the water, a coalition of peace groups that hopes to bring about 500 people to Park Square Saturday for a program of speeches, theater and music has a problem.

The demonstration seeking a change in U.S. policy in Central America may use the park, the Park Commission ruled last night, as long as demonstrators keep off the grass.

Christopher Martin, an organizer of the "Rally for Peace in Central America," and At-large City Councilor Peter G. Arlos appeared at last night's Park Commission meeting to seek permission to hold the rally in the park. (Another story, Page 10.)

The request was a bit late. The Park Square site for the rally has already been publicly announced. Fliers have been printed giving the park as the destination of a noon march up East Street.

Standing policy

The Park Commission has a long-standing policy of refusing to allow demonstrations in the Park Square park itself. Over a period of more than six years, Acting Chairman Paula Virgilio commented, "We've turned down many groups who have requested it. Now we're being asked to make an exception."

Member Anthony G. Massimiano said the commission should reconsider its policy. But his colleague Clifford J. Nilan said that should be done only after deliberation, not on the spot.

Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert objected that a demonstration in the park would distract traffic and create safety problems. But his main concern was that the multitude of feet would damage the grass.

Because of the Parks Department's strained finances, he said, "if that turf is damaged, we will have to live with damaged turf for the rest of the season."

The danger to the grass is particularly acute, he said, if the ground is wet on Saturday.

Other groups denied the use of the park, he said, have accepted one of the alternatives he had suggested to the coalition: the sidewalks around Park Square, the First Street Common or the wide sidewalk space in front of the courthouse annex in the Old Athenaeum.

'Maximum exposure'

Arlos declared that demonstrations are a proper and traditional use of New England town and city squares, but Park Commissioner Roger B. Sloper replied that the First Street Common "is the meeting area of Pittsfield."

Arlos retorted that "the purpose of a demonstration is to get the maximum exposure." That, he said, cannot be done except at Park Square.

And, he said, safety and distraction are greater problems if the demonstrators are out on the sidewalks rimming the park.

The councilor castigated the commission for failing in what he saw as its duty to support the cause of peace and charged it with interfering with the Constitutional rights of free speech and assembly.

With the exception of Massimiano and Park Commissioner Alma Arlos, the councilor's wife, the commissioners maintained that the right of free speech could be exercised equally well in one of the alternate locations.

A motion by Massimiano to grant the permit failed on a tie vote when Sloper abstained. He and Mrs. Arlos were on one side, Mrs. Virgilio and Nilan on the other.

But his subsequent motion to allow the demonstration in the park — but only on the footpaths — passed.

Arloses united

Mrs. Arlos, prefacing her remarks with, "I don't want to seem as if I'm just agreeing with my husband," pointed out that the park is used for other activities such as the annual Christmas tree lighting that could, conceivably, attract a large crowd. And she wondered aloud if the commission's no-demonstrations stand is legal.

Councilor Arlos warned the commissioners that if the request is turned down, "We will not look favorably on the Parks Department" when it seeks Council support against budget cuts or the recommendation by management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget that it be abolished as a separate entity. On the other hand, he said, if permission were granted, "then you might get some support for the parks."

Rally organizer Martin assured the commission that "the people we are organizing are mature and responsible."

He said he understands the concern about the grass, and would pass it on to the rally's crowd control monitors and be guided by the condition of the ground before going through with plans to gather in the park.

Wet weather might provide its own grass insurance, he said. "If the weather is lousy, I think we would be lucky to get 50 people."

April 26, 1983

Selective policy re Park Square grass

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Has *The Eagle* forgotten so quickly that "keep off the grass" policies were invoked against civil-rights and anti-war demonstrators in the '60s to prevent them from exercising their rights of free speech and free assembly? That's why *The Eagle's* "In Brief" justification of the Park Commission edict to Saturday's peace demonstrators is so disturbing.

The problem with the Park Commission's policy (which has received no public airing) is that it is selective. It is applied only to those who meet to demonstrate about public issues. I have never seen a "keep off the grass" sign at Park Square. But I have seen trucks on the grass bringing sculptures for the Artabout festival, and have seen a great number of people walking on the grass during this now yearly event. I've seen United Way signs on the grass. I've witnessed picnics there. I know that a Christmas-tree-lighting ceremony is permitted there. The policy hasn't interfered with any of these events.

We are told that the policy against demonstrations on the grass goes back six years. That should date it from the time Park Square was fixed up as one of the city's Bicentennial projects. It's ironic that a project to celebrate the birth of our national independence should result in this curtailment of the very activities that we were celebrating.

I marvel that *The Eagle* considers the remote possibility of damage to the grass at Park Square a sufficient excuse to bar free speech and assembly there. Or is *The Eagle's* comment simply its knee-jerk opposition to anything Councilor Peter Arlos champions? Even free speech.

CARL J. CHIARETTO
68 Dartmouth St.
Pittsfield

APR 29 1983

APR 27 1983

Hebert authorized to try for $100,000 park grant

In line with the motto, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," the Park Commission Monday night took the first step toward applying for a federal park rehabilitation grant.

Pittsfield applied in 1980 for a $500,000 grant to transform the First Street Common into a complex containing tennis courts, volleyball courts, bocce and shuffleboard courts, picnic areas, a jogging track and an esplanade between the Central Annex and First Street. The application was turned down.

Now, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert told the commission, $40 million is available for park rehabilitation or expansion as a result of the new federal jobs act. The program requires eligible communities to put up 30 percent of the project cost, while the grant covers the remaining 70 percent.

He asked the commission for authority to assist Planning Board staff member Robert Mellace in preparing an application for a $100,000 grant. While three parks are potential candidates for upgrading, he said, the restrictions on the grant make an application to improve the First Street Common the most likely to succeed.

The money could provide new lights, walks and fencing, he said.

Hebert recalled that the earlier, more ambitious application had stirred controversy. Some city councilors and citizens objected because the park design would have required eliminating the present baseball field and shrinking the size of the wintertime skating rink.

"If you don't move for these federal grants, you're criticized, and if you do, you're criticized," he said. "But I'd just as soon be criticized for going after the federal money."

The commission members authorized Hebert to proceed, with the proviso that plans be brought to them for approval before the application is submitted.

That, they noted, might require a special meeting, since grant proposals must be submitted by May 6.

In Brief . . .

A boost for education

APR 27 1983

Mayor Smith's commitment to boost the School Department's 1983-84 budget to at least $17,335,000 — up nearly $2 million from his devastating preliminary allocation of a few months ago — is a breath of spring after a long, fiscally nerve-wracking winter. Whether it will permit postponement for another year of the controversial plan to close both the Pomeroy and Stearns elementary schools remains to be seen, but it goes much of the way toward assuring the schools of enough money to maintain the present level of services. Not the least of the good things about it is the mayor's specific recognition of a fact that has sometimes been overlooked in the bureaucratic jostling for budgetary priority: namely, that maintaining a quality school system is not only an obligation to the younger generation but also a crucial element in trying to make Pittsfield a more attractive place for economic growth.

Protecting its turf

In justice to the Pittsfield Park Commission, which has enough headaches these days without having to fend off oratorical onslaughts from Pete Arlos, the keep-off-the-grass policy at Park Square reflects neither an indifference to the U.S. Constitution nor a sneaking admiration for U.S. imperialism in Central America. The policy has been impartially invoked against numerous worthy and not-so-worthy causes in the past, and the organizers of Saturday's scheduled peace demonstration shouldn't have expected it to be reversed on the spot at Monday's night's meeting.

MAY 17 1983

Councilor says govt. study doesn't mean end of parks

Pittsfield will still have its parks and park programs under the reorganization proposed by management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget, Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman said yesterday.

She said she has been contacted by constituents who are confused about the effect of the changes.

"It seems that many people think that Cresap was eliminating the parks," she said.

What the consultants did recommend — and what Mayor Charles L. Smith has introduced ordinances to accomplish — is splitting the functions of the Park Department between two other departments.

The Park Department maintenance crews would be transferred to a new Department of Maintenance. City maintenance functions now spread among the Department of Public Buildings, Park Department and city garage would be centralized in that department.

Supervision of recreation programs would pass to the new Department of Community Services. That department would gather all city government social service and recreation activities, including those of the Council on Aging, Park Department and Retired Senior Volunteer Program, under a single director.

Cresap, McCormick & Paget also recommended making recreation programs self-sustaining by charging fees.

The consultants predict that the changes will save about $160,000. They said that increased efficiency and flexibility gained by centralizing maintenance will make it possible to do the work with three fewer maintenance workers, saving $54,000 in salaries and fringe benefits, and that the new recreation setup can save $104,000 in salaries.

Some $52,000 of that would be saved by eliminating the two top jobs in the present Park Department, that of the superintendent of parks and recreation and the director of the recreation division. The balance of the money would be saved by using fewer park police and paying for seasonal recreation staff through fees rather than the city budget.

The two full-time Park Department recreation staff members would be reassigned to the Department of Community Services.

MAY 19 1983

Park board elects Sloper chairman

Roger B. Sloper of East Acres Road was elected chairman of the Park Commission Monday for the third time since being appointed to the commission in 1973. He suceeds Dr. Robert J. Kirvin, who died in January.

Commission members had delayed electing a successor to Kirvin for several months as a gesture of respect for their longtime colleague. Paula J. Virgilio served as acting chairman in the interim.

Sloper, who sold his insurance agency, C.W. Sloper & Sons, in 1981, previously served as chairman during the 1974-75 and 1978-79 seasons. Chairmanship of the commission rotates among members yearly.

His father, the late Archie K. Sloper, served on the commission for many years.

In other business Monday, Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert said it would cost an estimated $7,180 to repair fences around Little League fields throughout the city.

The City Council requested the estimate after At-Large Councilor James R. McCaffrey filed a petition for $2,000 to repair the fence and backstop at Deming Park. Two weeks earlier, the Council endorsed Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters' request for $1,900 to repair the minor league field at Wahconah Park.

In another matter related to a Council petition, the commission voted to send Ward 2 Councilor Kennth G. Warren Jr. information on past efforts to involve area social agencies in the annual Fourth of July carnival at Wahconah Park. Warren also had requested that the commission consider moving the carnival to another location this year, over the objections of Mrs. Betters, who claimed the move would hurt merchants in the Wahconah Street area.

Park Commission members said Monday that they did not favor relocating the carnival at this time, according to Hebert.

In addition, the commission took under advisement a request from Richard C. Johnson of 380 Peck's Road, who wants to purchase a portion of the Highland Avenue playground that adjoins his property. Hebert said the five-year Recovery Action Plan for park maintenance and development recommended selling that parcel.



MAY 23 1983

Mark Mitchell

VIETNAM VETERANS Chapter 65, clean up South Street Memorial Park as part of the Adopt-a-Park Program under which 12 groups have agreed to provide volunteer maintenance at 10 Pittsfield parks. This group turned out yesterday.

Joseph N. Clairmont

Joseph N. Clairmont, 60, of 33 Pollock Ave. died yesterday at the Berkshire Medical Center after a short illness.

He was born in East Cheshire on Jan. 25, 1923, the son of Joseph and Lena Lavigne Clairmont. He lived in the Adams-Cheshire area before moving to Pittsfield 36 years ago.

A Navy veteran of World War II, Mr. Clairmont was a member of the VFW. He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Before his retirement in 1976 because of ill health, he had been employed as a carpenter by the city Department of Parks and Recreation for eight years. For nine years before that he was a self-employed carpenter. He had previously worked for Dan Gall Inc. and for George Allegrone Construction Co.

Mr. Clairmont was the husband of the former Gladys Archambeau, to whom he had been married 35 years.

Besides his wife, he is survived by three sons, Bruce J., Brian J. and Barry J. Clairmont, all of Pittsfield; two daughters, Mrs. Carol T. Weissbrod of Washington and Miss Diane M. Clairmont of Pittsfield; a brother, Leo Clairmont of Pittsfield; a sister, Mrs. Doris Haskins of Savoy, and three grandchildren.

The funeral will be Thursday at 10:30 from the Dery Funeral Home, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at Sacred Heart Church at 11. Burial will be in Eastlawn Cemetery in Williamstown.

Calling hours at the funeral home will be tomorrow evening from 7 to 9.

MAY 24 1983

25 Years Ago

Miss Eleanor J. Farrell of 55 Newell St. was named summer publiciity director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Misses Elaine Niarchos, Sandra Gai and Priscilla Beth Fierman were named playground supervisors.

Margaret Stott was elected president of the Student council of New Lebanon (N.Y.) Central School for 1958-59.

JUN 7 1983

JUN 8 1983

Indian drums will sound in Park Square on Friday

The Berkshire chapter of Native Rights Advocacy, on a split vote, received the Park Commission's permission to erect a teepee and stage a drum demonstration Friday afternoon at Park Square.

Purpose of the event, which will take place from 2 to 5, is to promote a two-day "powwow" at Bucksteep Manor in the town of Washington Saturday and Sunday. The powwow, a fund-raiser to benefit the Oneida Tribe's land claims in New York state, will feature cultural displays and activities, such as dance and drum contests.

Friday's activities will involve about 10 people, native rights advocate Ron Reid-Hamel told the commission Monday.

According to Parks Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert, the Park Commission has a policy of only allowing traditional events such as the Christmas tree-lighting ceremony and the Winter Carnival ice sculpture display to use Park Square. The reason behind the policy is that commission members fear the turf will be damaged if large numbers of people are permitted to congregate there.

Commission Chairman Paula J. Virgilio suggested that the Indian group keep off the grass and restrict its activities to the sidewalks.

The board voted 3-1 to allow the group to use Park Square Friday, with Mrs. Virgilio abstaining and Clifford J. Nilan voting no.

On a motion from member Alma Arlos, the commission agreed to reevaluate the Park Square policy at its next meeting, Hebert said.

June 6, 1983

Parks Dept. to test lifeguard applicants

Persons interested in summer employment as lifeguards for the Department of Parks and Recreation's beaches at Onota and Pontoosuc lakes will be tested at the Pittsfield Girls Club pool at 165 East St. today from 2 to 4 p.m., according to the Parks Department.

Further testing will continue through Wednesday.

The department said applicants should report at the pool Monday with evidence of certification in senior lifesaving, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid. A water safety instructor certificate is an asset. City lifeguards must have 20/20 corrected vision.

Further information is available from John Marchesi at the Parks Department.

JUN 8 1983

Park Dept. seeks to move mall sculpture to BCC

The Park Department, which recently advertised for bids to move the sculpture at Dunham Mall to Berkshire Community College, received only one response, Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert told the Park Commission Monday.

The lone bidder was J.H. Maxymillian Inc. of Lanesboro, which would do the job for $16,510, Hebert said. The matter was taken under advisement until the Park Department, which is working with the city Office of Community and Economic Development, can obtain funding for the work.

The sculpture, designed specifically for Dunham Mall by Brooklyn artist Sahl Swarz, has been a source of controversy since the pedestrian mall was built in 1970. Private donations paid for the $5,500 work of art.

Hebert said a new site for the sculpture has been selected with the cooperation of BCC officials.

Several meetings were held last year to gather ideas from merchants, city officials and the public on what should be done to spruce up the mall.

Betty Rich, part-owner of the Dunham Block and one of the people who helped pay for the mall itself, suggested removing the sculpture and the long-dormant, dilapidated fountain on which it is perched to make snow removal easier and open the vista to City Hall.

Council approves 2 appointments in reorganization

The City Council Tuesday unanimously approved mayoral appointments to two of the new jobs created by the reorganization of city government.

Robert Peck was named city accountant. The post corresponds to his present job of assistant city auditor, which has been abolished.

Robert Pomeroy, the senior building inspector, was named buildings commissioner.

The buildings commissioner, a new department head, is responsible for assigning and supervising the inspectors of buildings, wires, plumbing and gas as well as the sealer of weights and measures. Each was formerly autonomous.

Both are essentially temporary appointments. They expire at the end of Mayor Charles L. Smith's term in January.

Richard D. Valenti, chairman of the Planning Board, was unanimously reappointed. His term had expired.

The Council also unanimously approved the reappointment of Alma Arlos to the Park Commission. She was filling the unexpired term of former Commissioner Robert J. Kirvin.

Both Valenti and Mrs. Arlos were named to new five-year terms of office.

June 17, 1983

JAN 8 1983

Dr. Robert J. Kirvin dies; was dentist, park official

Dr. Robert J. Kirvin, 61, of 6 Richard Drive, a local dentist who served on the Pittsfield Parks Commission for 25 years, died Thursday at Hillcrest Hospital after being stricken by an apparent heart attack.

Dr. Kirvin was first appointed to the Parks Commission in July 1958 and was its chairman at the time of his death. In all, he served as chairman four times and was most recently elected to that post last summer. The commission rotates chairmen every year.

Mayor Charles L. Smith last night praised Dr. Kirvin as "a very politically minded citizen as well as a civic-minded citizen."

"We often discussed politics and campaigns," the mayor said, "and he was a sort of adviser and confidant of mine . . . I am very saddened by the loss of Bob Kirvin."

Praise also came from Park Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert, who said, "He was never too busy to help when needed and led the commission and the department through many difficult problems."

A native of Pittsfield, Dr. Kirvin was born Feb. 15, 1921, the son of Hazel Staples Kirvin and the late Joseph J. Kirvin.

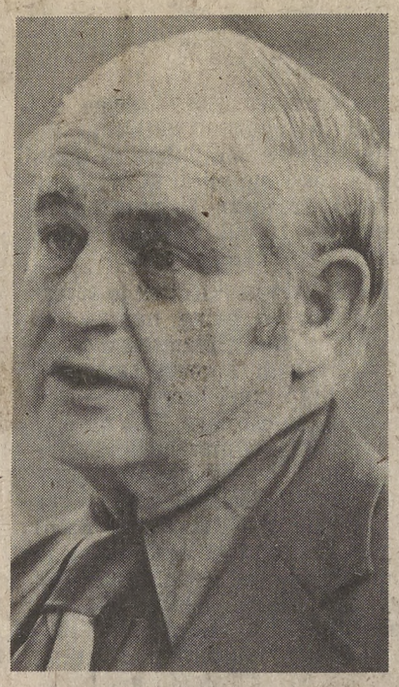
He graduated from Pittsfield High School and received a degree in 1942 from the University of Massachusetts. He did graduate work in the school of engineering of the University of Connecticut and was employed by the Springfield Ordnance District.

He joined the Navy in 1943 and was commissioned an ensign at the Midshipmen's School, Columbia University, in February 1944. He served in the Pacific aboard the USS J. Franklin Bell, an attack transport.

Won battle stars

Before his discharge in January 1946 with the rank of lieutenant junior grade, he was awarded battle stars for participation in the invasions of Saipan, Tinian, Leyte and Okinawa. During these invasions, he served as senior boat officer, guiding waves of landing craft carrying assault troops to the enemy beaches.

Following his military service Dr. Kirvin entered Baltimore College of Dental Surgery's Dental School at the University of Maryland, where he graduated with the degree of doctor of dental surgery.



Dr. Robert J. Kirvin
On board 25 years

Dr. Kirvin first opened an office at 184 North St. in September 1950, and practiced general dentistry here for 32 years.

Long active in community affairs, he served as president of the Berkshire County Fair. He was first named to the Pittsfield Park Commission in 1958 by Mayor Raymond Haughey, to succeed George P. Clayson.

Dr. Kirvin had served on the board of directors of Hillcrest Hospital since 1977 and last month was re-elected for another three-year term. He was also head of the hospital's dental department.

He was a member of the Berkshire County and Massachusetts dental associations, the Berkshire Deputy Sheriffs Association and American Legion Post 68.

Dr. Kirvin was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree. He also continued membership in the fraternal societies of Psi Omega and Sigma Epsilon Phi.

He is survived by his wife, the former Madelin May, to whom he had been married 30 years on Sept. 27; three sons, Joseph J. Kirvin, John P. Kirvin and Robert J. Kirvin Jr.; a daughter, Mary Joseph Kirvin, and one granddaughter, all of Pittsfield.

The funeral will be Monday at 9:30 a.m. from the Dery Funeral Home, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 at Sacred Heart Church. Burial will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Calling hours at the Dery Funeral Home will be today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 and Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sacred Heart Church or to Hillcrest Hospital in Dr. Kirvin's memory.

Services are held for Dr. Robert Kirvin

The funeral of Dr. Robert J. Kirvin was yesterday from the Dery Funeral Home, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial celebrated at Sacred Heart Church by Auxiliary Bishop Leo E. O'Neil of Springfield, Monsignor Paul D. Riedl, pastor, St. Joseph's Church; Monsignor Joseph I. Johnson, pastor, St. Mark's Church; the Rev. Edward M. Callahan, pastor, Sacred Heart Church; the Rev. Dennis P. Bombardier, assistant pastor, St. Joseph's Church; the Rev. Frederick G. Dion, assistant pastor, St. Teresa's Church; the Rev. Raymond A. Lanoue, pastor, Blessed Sacrament Church, Greenfield, and the Rev. Crispin Drost, Franciscan Friars, St. Lawrence Friary, Becket.

Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery, where Monsignor Johnson, Father Callahan, Father Dion, Father Lanoue and Father Drost offered prayers at the grave.

An honor guard was formed by members of the Berkshire County Dental Association and by members of the Pittsfield Parks and Recreation Department headed by Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert.

Bearers were John A. Barry, Jr., Michael D. Grandfield, William G. Fitzgerald, Charles W. Allender and Robert P. and Michael C. May, both nephews of Dr. Kirvin.

Large delegations of city officials, headed by Mayor Charles L. Smith; members of the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department, headed by Carmen C. Massimiano, and of Hillcrest Hospital's board of directors and staff members were present.

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1983

JAN 18 1983

Contractor offers to construct road, parking lot at Clapp Park

By Debra DiMassimo

The local contractor for a flood protection project at the rear of Clapp Park is willing to build a permanent access road to the work site and a parking lot that parkgoers can use once the project is completed, the Park Commission learned last night.

Project superintendent Paul E. "Jack" Lavoilette Jr. of J.H. Maxymillian Inc. outlined the proposal at a meeting of the commission, which tabled the matter until members can view the site.

Maxymillian, a Lanesboro firm, was awarded a $376,000 contract for the project by the Army Corps of Engineers, which designed it, in late October. The contract specifies that access through the work site be through Clapp Park, but Maxymillian has opted to build an access road alongside the running track at the western boundary of the park instead of tearing up the track and playing fields, Lavoilette said.

Purpose of the project is to relieve flooding in the West Housatonic Street area. It will involve the installation of three pipes 8 feet in diameter and 456 feet long under the Penn Central railroad tracks adjoining the southeast portion of the park.

Lavoilette, who submitted a written proposal to the Park Commission, said the contractor wants to build a 20-foot-wide road to get his equipment to the work site. The road could later be used for access to park activities, at no cost to the city.

The contractor also proposes to level off the area behind S.S. Pierce Co. for two temporary office trailers and parking, and put a 10-foot-thick layer of fill in a low area east of the work site for a future parking area. Water would be drained from the park to the river with a swale, catch basin or a new culvert pipe.

Robert S. Mellace of the city Planning Department said that the area involved is in a 100-year flood plain, and that a special permit must be obtained from the Planning Board before any changes are made in the elevation of the land. The contractor would be required to provide flood storage space to compensate for any that is lost.

Referring to the access road, Lavoilette said, "It will be something we both can use," adding that it will have to be solid enough to accommodate heavy equipment during construction. "It's good for both of us."

The contract specifies that the work be completed by Aug. 18 and that planting and seeding to restore disturbed areas be done by Sept. 20.

Commission member Clifford J. Nilan questioned whether anyone would use a parking lot in the rear of the park to get to a baseball game on the diamond near West Housatonic Street.

Parking for spectators has been a perennial problem at Clapp Park. Many people park illegally on the grass along the south side of West Housatonic Street and back out onto the street when they leave, creating what officials feel is a dangerous traffic situation.

Parks Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert said people will not be able to pull onto the grass, once the reconstruction of the street is done and granite curbing is installed there.

The commission voted to give Maxymillian permission to use the area behind S.S. Pierce for its office trailers, but delayed making a decision on the access road and parking lot.

Nature knows best

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I wish to register my objection to the proposed construction on Clapp Park. This project, to me, is a waste of time and money, which is not wise at this time.

The Army Corps of Engineers has always loved to fight Mother Nature, and waste valuable tax money at the same time. An example would be the time when the engineers tried to change the course of the Mississippi River. After many years and millions of dollars wasted trying to divert the natural course, they made the problem even worse. Instead of flooding evenly along its course, the river now floods its banks twice as much as it did before man played with it.

Of course, the proposed plan to build a heavy-duty road and "flood-control project" in the West Housatonic Street area is not like taking on the mighty Mississippi — but it is in the same vein. Mother Nature made flood areas to be flood areas forever, not to be tampered with by man; you can't change something nature wanted. Instead of spending $376,000, as the Army Corps of Engineers wants to on this project, why not use the money to help improve the city's roads, some of which are in very bad shape?

I urge the people of Pittsfield, especially the people of Clapp Park area, to help stop this project before they make the flooding worse and ruin the beauty of Clapp Park.

MARK KOZIOL
20 Britton St.
Pittsfield

JAN 21 1983

Angela Bowerman re-elected by union

FEB 4 1983

Angela Bowerman has been re-elected president of the Pittsfield City Employees Clerical Union, Local 65.

Other officers elected were Patricia A. Peaslee, vice president; Linda L. Aurswald, secretary; Alice M. Hartigan, treasurer, and Lena A. Robinson, sergeant at arms.

Named to the newly-formed educational informative committee were Eileen M. Smith, chairman, Anna M. Benham, Beverly Heidel, Anita M. Nuciforo and Nanette M. Wisnowski.

Alma Arlos named to fill vacancy on Park Commission

FEB 8 1983

Mayor Charles L. Smith has named Alma Arlos of 32 Arlington St., a former member of the School Committee, to fill the Park Commission vacancy created by the death of Dr. Robert J. Kirvin.

The appointment will come before the City Council for confirmation tomorrow night.

Mrs. Arlos is the wife of At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos.

Dentist buys practice of Dr. Robert Kirvin

Dr. David D. Crall has purchased the general dentistry practice of the late Dr. Robert J. Kirvin and will continue the practice in the Miller Building, 184 North St., on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and every other Saturday.

An associate of Dr. J. Peter Conry, 399 West St., since July 1981, Crall will continue that association on a part-time basis.

Crall graduated from Cranwell School in 1973, from Holy Cross College in 1977 and from Georgetown School of Dentistry in 1981. He is married to the former Susan Merrick of Lenox and they have one child, David Jr., 14 months. They live at 63 Revilla Terrace.

FEB 12 1983

Prop. 2½ to close city playgrounds

FEB 15 1983

By Debra DiMassimo

With a projected budget less than half of what it was before Proposition 2½, the Park Department will be unable to staff any city playgrounds this summer, the Park Commission learned last night.

Parks Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert told the board that the "bottom line" budget for fiscal year 1984 will require laying off the department's recreation supervisor and a maintenance worker and closing all the playgrounds, including the Highland special needs playground for handicapped and retarded children.

Hebert and other city department heads were directed by the mayor to submit a budget that is 89.7 percent of last year's and make provision for salary increases negotiated during collective bargaining.

The result, Hebert said, is that he had to cut $54,586 to meet the limit of $350,902 for fiscal year 1984, which runs from July 1 this year to June 30, 1984.

Park Commission member Paula J. Virgilio complained that recent budget cuts have forced the elimination of virtually all of the Park Department's programs. "We're not Parks and Recreations any more," she said. "It's more a park maintenance department.

Noting that city officials have been touting Pittsfield as a good place to live in hopes of luring new business and industry, Hebert added, "If the parks become hip high in hay, we're not going to be able to attract people to the city."

The Park Department, which in the past two years has been at the bottom of the City Council's priority list, has been particularly hard hit by Proposition 2½.

In fiscal year 1981, the department had a budget of $706,081 and 27 full-time staffers. In 1982 and 1983, it was cut to $616,692 to $391,196, respectively.

If the department is unable to secure additional funding for fiscal year 1984, the superintendent said last night, the Park Department will have only 11 full-time employees.

According to the department's annual report, it maintains 11 parks, nine playgrounds, 22 parkways, islands and traffic circles, 14 basketball courts, two football fields, eight softball fields, seven baseball fields, four Little League fields, two boat ramps, one tennis court, three picnic areas, two bathing beaches, two sliding areas, two skating areas, four skiing areas, five soccer fields, the children's zoo and flower gardens, and Springside Park and the Wild Acres grounds and facilities.

Among its other activities, the Park Department in the past year assisted the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee with the annual Winter Carnival, conducted learn-to-skate and swimming programs, planned the annual Halloween Parade and the Christmas program at Park Square, equipped and guarded nine playgrounds and two beaches, conducted junior football, summer soccer, girls' softball and instructional baseball programs, and scheduled use of athletic fields by the three high schools and hundreds of other baseball, soccer, football and soccer teams.

Hebert said the department has tried to compensate for budget cutbacks by enlisting volunteers and forming the Citizens Volunteer Alliance.

But, he added, "The picture is not good."

Mayor asserts city playgrounds will not close

Mayor Charles L. Smith yesterday scored the Department of Parks and Recreation for its contention that its reduced budget will mean "closing all the playgrounds."

The playgrounds and parks will not be closed, he said, although "they will not be staffed. The swings will still be there, and the teeter-totters. The only thing that will not be there are the baby-sitters."

Smith said he expects that parents will go to the parks with their children as they did years ago, before playgrounds were staffed in the summer. In many cases, he said, volunteers will take the place of paid staff.

FEB 16 1983

City parkland is eyed for lease as driving range

Representatives of the Berkshire Hills Country Club Monday unveiled a proposal to lease a piece of city parkland across from its clubhouse on Benedict Road for a driving range for club members.

Vito R. Salatino told the Park Commission that the club wants to lease a piece of land 150 yards by 300 yards. The parcel lies between the Morningside Heights housing project and two baseball fields used by Little League and Babe Ruth teams.

Ward 1 City Councilor John R. O'Gara, who attended Monday's meeting, said he had talked with some of the neighbors and had not encountered very much opposition to the proposal, which has been referred to the city solicitor's office.

A ruling is needed on the legality of leasing dedicated city parkland to a private organization, Parks Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert said. The city took the parcel in question by eminent domain on Sept. 24, 1965. It was owned by the Eagle Street Realty Trust, whose principals were Lawrence K. Miller and Paul J. Major.

Feb. 16, 1983

Squeezing the parks

One can't fault Parks Superintendent Vinnie Hebert for crying out loud about his projected new budget of $350,000, which is barely half what he was given three years ago when a buck was 25 percent bigger. His problem, though, is that the Park Department, more than most, deals in services that are desirable but not essential: When the fiscal belt gets so tight that keeping summer playground staff has to be balanced against making more teachers or cops walk the plank, he doesn't have much bargaining power. One can be sure that ways will be found to keep the special-needs program at Highland playground going, but beyond that he'd best beat the bushes harder for helpers who don't want money.

FEB 16 1983

Summer situations

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Now that our local parks will no longer be financed and our children will not be allowed to participate in planned activites during the summer, perhaps these funds will go toward the teachers' pay raises.

After all, teachers work 10 months of the year and get paid for 12. They have all the school holidays and vacations off and get paid for them, too. And most teachers, at least at the elementary-school level, take every sick day coming to them.

Why not suggest that during those two months, July and August, the teachers volunteer to take turns supervising the parks for our children? Once again: They are already being paid for those two months when they are not teaching!

(Mrs.) JANICE HENDEREK
44 Dodge Ave.
Pittsfield

FEB 17 1983

Like to adopt a small park?

The Park Department, unable to nurture all its property because of budget strain, plans to put small parks up for "adoption" by civic groups, Scout troops and neighborhood organizations.

To ensure that the parks, squares and median strips end up in good hands, Michele Depew, the department's coordinator of volunteers, has drawn up a set of recommendations for their care.

The Park Commission has given its stamp of parental approval to the "Adopt-a-Park" plan. A brochure outlining the program is to be printed, and Ms. Depew plans to take her proposal to groups throughout the city.

FEB 17 1983

14 groups adopt parks; one includes a program

By Debra DeMassimo

Fourteen groups, including civic agencies, clubs and families, have agreed to take 14 park and playground areas under their wings as part of the Citizens Volunteer Alliance's fledgling "Adopt-a-Park" program, which the National Park Service plans to use as a model for other communities.

But in the view of Michele M. Depew, whose federally funded position as volunteer coordinator will lapse this month, the most exciting development is that one group has taken the program a step further: Besides providing cleanup and maintenance chores, it will run a full playground program for neighborhood children.

The Park Department, its budget pinched by Proposition 2½, will not staff any of the city's playgrounds this summer.

Salvation Army project

The Salvation Army has hired Joseph E. Leskovitz of 52 Mohawk St., a student at Berkshire Community College, to supervise an eight-week playground program at Dorothy Amos Park on West Street, across the street from the agency's headquarters. The Berkshire Center for Families and Children will provide some volunteer assistance, as will about 10 BCC students and friends Leskovitz has enlisted.

Salvation Army Capt. Bernard W. Meitrott said the program will be conducted from June 27 to Aug. 19, Monday through Friday from 10 to 4. On rainy days, children will be invited to participate in arts and crafts activities and games in the army building, which has a gym.

Tentative schedule

Flyers explaining the "summer enrichment program" will be distributed door-to-door to parents in the neighborhood, Meitrott said. A tentative schedule drawn up by Leskovitz includes story hours, organized games and sports activities, arts and crafts, field trips and weekly excursions to the lake.

Others who have agreed to adopt Park Department areas are:

— The Neighborhood Advisory Council at West Side Community School, which will take Coolidge Park.

— The Knights of Columbus and Civil Defense, which are teaming up to maintain Park Square and its fountain.

— Jonathan and Josephine May of 38 Harding St., who will tend the West Street Cemetery.

— The Key program's shelter for adolescents, which will take care of Clapp Park.

— Chapter 65 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, which will maintain Memorial Park on South Street and a "needy" median strip to be selected by Ms. Depew.

— The Haystack Pathfinders Club at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, which will take on Deming Park.

— Thomas Wise of Winter Street, who heads a group of neighbors that has been working since April to spruce up Raymond Crow Playground. Ms. Depew said the group has put up basketball nets, cut the grass and has borrowed playground equipment from the Park Department with the intention of supervising activities.

— The North End Association of Trade, which will maintain the playground at the Springside Children's Zoo and the median strip on First Street near Berkshire Medical Center.

— The Berkshire Radio Control Flying Club, which has maintained a flying field at Brattlebrook Park for more than 12 years.

— John J. and Linda Mahoney of 31 Stanley Ave., who will take care of Crane Playground and enlist their neighbors in a "park watch" effort to deter vandalism.

— Dorothy and Chester Summer, a retired couple who live at 375 Dalton Ave. will keep the area around the Allengate Arch area clean.

170 people participate

In all, about 170 people are participating in the Adopt-a-Park program, said Ms. Depew, whose job it was to draw up guidelines and enlist volunteers. She added that the Adopt-a-Park concept has been talked about by recreation personnel all over the country, but Pittsfield is one of the few cities to actually implement it.

"The National Park Service is very pleased," she said. The federal agency gave the city a $24,000 grant, which the city matched with in-kind services, to hire Ms. Depew as a volunteer coordinator and get the program started. Her final task will be to write a booklet about the program for use as a model for other communities.

Ms. Depew is concerned, however, that the volunteer program will lose momentum unless the city takes steps to ensure it continues after the Park Department, under the city reorganization plan, ceases to exist as a separate entity.

"It's all set up and ready to go," she said, "but you need a staff person to answer volunteers' questions and get materials."

JUN 18 1983

Service above self

A big vote of thanks is owed to the civic-minded Pittsfield organizations and individuals who have offered their services for the demanding task of trying to keep the city's parks and playgrounds from famishing in the fiscal drought created by Proposition 2½. If, as now seems likely, the city's adopt-a-park program helps inspire similar efforts in other communities, the volunteers will be setting an example of far more than local significance.

JUN 20 1983

Accommodating activism

In the age of activism every self-respecting city doubtless needs a central spot where demonstrators can demonstrate with impunity, but we expect most Pittsfield residents share the Park Commission's traditional view that motorists trying to negotiate the Park Square oval don't need any extra aggravations. A few old-timers can still remember when the north side of Depot Street was a sort of soap-box alley, with the side-hill location providing a natural ampitheater for earnest oratory. A more suitable site today might be the mini-mall at North and Columbus: It's reasonably central, and the fact that it's paved would obviate such absurdities as the recent request that Indians keep off the grass when demonstrating at Park Square. That's the sort of admonition that cost palefaces their scalps in days of yore.

JUN 22 1983

JUN 28 1983

Meeting planned on possible sale of park property

The Park Commission will hold a meeting tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. to discuss with abutters the possible sale of a portion of Highland Park to a man who wants to build a mini-mall there.

Chairman Roger B. Sloper said that the meeting is in keeping with the commission's policy of informing abutters about recreation programs, policy changes and property transactions.

Richard C. Johnson of 372 Peck's Road, the owner of Johnny's Variety Store, wants to buy about a half-acre of the park and construct a variety store, laundromat, restaurant, beauty parlor, real estate office and package store.

Highland Park has been unstaffed for three years and is close to a play area at Highland School.

The meeting will take place at Springside House, 874 North St.

Hearing elicits mixed reaction to plan for mall on park land

By Debra DiMassimo

A variety store owner's proposal to buy a half-acre parcel of Highland Park to construct a mini-mall got a mixed reaction at an informational meeting Wednesday before the Park Commission, which took no action on the plan.

Several of the 19 people who attended the meeting spoke in favor of the project, including Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters, who said it would solve the "terrific traffic problem" in the area. Two abutters opposed the sale of parkland in any case.

Richard C. Johnson, who operates Johnny's Variety Store next door to his home at 372 Peck's Road and has 11 employees, told the board he has outgrown his location and wants to demolish the store and build a mini-mall on the parkland, which is behind his property. The front part of the lot would then be used for parking.

The mall, Johnson said, would include a laundromat, real estate office, beauty salon, and a sandwich and ice cream shop in addition to the variety store, which has a license to sell beer and wine.

Johnson claimed the hilly, rocky area he wants to buy is not used and has never been developed.

In a letter to the Park Commission, Chamber of Commerce President James W. Wallace supported Johnson's plan, saying that studies have recommended the sale of part or all of Highland Park because of its proximity to the playground area at Highland School, that the plan would help solve a possibly dangerous parking problem and that more than 300 customers of the variety store signed a petition favoring the expansion.

Wallace also wrote that he had visited the site that morning and that it was littered with broken beer bottles and other trash.

Parks Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert later confirmed that the city's Recovery Action Plan for the park system, prepared by a consultant under a federal grant, recommended the sale of the park.

John Salatino of 69 Backman Ave., who owns property adjacent to the park, said he was satisfied with Johnson's plan to provide a 20-foot-wide buffer strip between his property and the mini-mall and was in favor of the project. However, he said he would oppose any further sale of land in the park.

Other proponents said youths congregate in the park for drinking parties and that the land has been neglected.

Paul B. Fairweather of 21 Highland Ave. said he would hate to see any portion of the park developed but that if it was to be sold, the Park Commission should seek bids on it. "To forsake Highland Park would be poor judgment," he said.

Mrs. Betters said that if the Council approved the sale, it would have to obtain a special act of the Legislature to sell the parkland and the Council would advertise for bids.

Joseph Bilotta of 27 Burns St. said he was "against selling parkland for any reason" and didn't want a restaurant in the neighborhood. He noted that the playground at Highland School is used for special-needs children in the summer and said he and several of his neighbors were willing to "adopt" the park if the Park Department would help with mowing and provide equipment.

Park Commission Chairman Roger B. Sloper said the proposal would be taken under advisement. There was no discussion.

July 1, 1983

Park board bars demonstrations in Park Square

JUL 7 1983

By Debra DiMassimo

Park Square is a place for picnics, not pickets, the Park Commission decided last night.

On a 3-2 vote, the commission affirmed a longstanding policy against allowing public gatherings and demonstrations at Park Square. The minority votes were cast by Alma Arlos and Anthony G. Massimiano.

Member Paula J. Virgilio said the Park Commission has to think of the "average citizen" and reserve Park Square for people who want to sit in the sun and picnic.

She contended that those people would be "intimidated or harassed" by demonstrations and that they would be "distracting" for motorists negotiating the dangerous intersection, especially when tourist season is in full swing.

"Ordinary people enjoy the park as it is," said Clifford J. Nilan. "It's a beautiful place to go sit and relax without being harassed."

Mrs. Arlos said Park Square is "a unique place in the hearts of the people in Pittsfield" and should have the widest possible use. In response to Nilan's and Mrs. Virgilio's remarks, she said "I don't think a person making a speech is harassment . . . We must tolerate each other's views."

Massimiano said he was in favor of permitting the use of Park Square for public gatherings but was "more interested in things like band concerts than large political demonstrations."

Chairman Roger B. Sloper said he had watched the park from the window of his office for 20 years.

"I think people want real passive, quiet use of the park," he said.

Pittsfield gets $46,990 grant to pay for 11 summer park jobs

Pittsfield has been awarded a $46,990 Liberty Tree Job Corps grant that will give jobs to 11 unemployed workers — 10 laborers and one supervisor — improving Springside, Burbank and Sackett Brook parks from July 18 to Sept. 30.

The grant will also benefit local plant nurseries and other merchants. Under the terms of the grant, trees, shrubs and supplies for the project must be purchased from local small businesses.

Mayor Charles L. Smith announced receiving the grant at a press conference in his office yesterday. He then turned his chair over to the man who occupied it when the successful crash program to apply for the money was launched — At-large City Councilor Joseph W. Ryan.

"I want to say thank you to Joe Ryan for acting in my behalf when I was gone and pursuing this grant," Smith said.

"I just happened to be in the right place at the right time," said Ryan.

Pittsfield learned about the grant program just one week before the deadline for submitting applications to Boston. Smith was in Japan. Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi was away at banking school. Ryan, as acting mayor for the week, mobilized city forces to get an application ready and then hand-carried it to Boston.

The primary force mobilized was assistant planner Robert Mellace, who prepared the application. Both Smith and Ryan praised Mellace for getting the job done under extreme time pressure.

In all, $500,000 was available statewide under the Liberty Tree Job Corps program, which is sponsored in Massachusetts by the Department of Environmental Management's division of forests and parks and funded through the Small Business Administration.

"The whole idea," said Smith, "is to put people to work so the federal government will look good when the unemployment figures come out."

Pittsfield obtained about 10 percent of the total statewide kitty, Ryan pointed out. He said he was told, when he delivered the application, that "I was number 84. There were probably over 100 applications."

Master plan helped

Swift action was only possible, Ryan said, because Pittsfield already had a parks master plan with priorities assigned to park improvements.

Mellace said he selected the three parks from top priorities in the master plan.

In Springside Park, he said, trees will be planted along the new road to the children's zoo. The zoo and the picnic and playground area nearby will be improved and trails will be maintained.

In Sackett Brook Park, trees will be planted at the entrance, along the main park road and in the playground area to provide shade. A footbridge will be built over Sackett Brook to connect the front and rear sections of the park, some trails will be improved and some brush removed.

Work at Burbank Park, Mellace said, will be dovetailed with construction of a picnic pavilion in the Ramsey Beach area financed with a separate $10,000 state grant. Trees and grass will be planted after the pavilion is built.

Also listed in the application as a possible project, he said, is brush clearing at Wild Acres wildlife and recreation area and stabilizing the shoreline of the fishing pond there.

Ryan said the workers must be hired through the Division of Employment Security and that at least three applicants must be interviewed for each job.

When he first learned about the Liberty Tree program, Ryan had speculated before the City Council that the grant might be used to hire back city laborers laid off under Proposition 2½.

The laborers will be paid $5.50 an hour, Mellace said, and the supervisor, $7.50. Ronald Spring, director of maintenance, will coordinate the work.

Mellace said the city must lay out the money and then bill the state for reimbursement every week or every two weeks. Although the city can spend up to the $46,990 it sought and received, it will only be reimbursed for the amount actually spent.

Mayor Charles L. Smith said he will seek an appropriation to start the work at the July 12 meeting of the City Council.

JUL 1 1983

Park Commission opposes Highland Park land sale

The proposed sale of a half-acre of Highland Park was spurned by the Park Commission on a unanimous vote last night.

The commission will forward to the City Council its recommendation that the city retain ownership of all of the park. Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters filed a petition with the Council on behalf of Richard C. Johnson, owner of Johnny's Variety Store at 370 Peck's Road, who wants to buy the parcel behind his present store and build a mini-mall there.

If the Council votes to sell the land, it must then obtain a special act of the Legislature and put the parcel out to bid.

Commission members said they feared setting a precedent by selling parkland.

'Future generations' in mind

"We hold these parklands for future generations," said commission member Alma Arlos.

Anthony G. Massimiano called Highland "a nice little park. With a little TLC [tender, loving care], it could come back."

Clifford J. Nilan warned that if the Council votes to sell part of the park and it is put out to bid, there is no guarantee that Johnson will be able to acquire it.

Johnson's plan got a mixed reaction at an informational meeting for neighbors that the Park Commission held June 29. Several neighbors spoke in favor of the proposal, saying it would alleviate traffic congestion caused by customers trying to find parking spaces near the store. Two residents opposed the sale of parkland under any circumstances.

300 sign store petition

Mrs. Betters presented the commission with a petition signed by more than 300 customers and a letter from Chamber of Commerce president James W. Wallace favoring the sale.

The sale of Highland Park was recommended by consultants who prepared a Recovery Action Plan for the city's open space under a federal grant. The consultants said the park is "an odd-shaped and minimally equipped playground in an area whose neighborhood needs can be met at the nearby Highland Elementary School."

JUL 7 1983

Children's Zoo is opening after budget-caused delays

The annual roundup of animals for the Children's Zoo at Springside Park, delayed this year by the reorganization of city government and budget uncertainties, is under way.

Vincent J. Hebert, director of community services, said the free zoo should be "back in business" by Friday or Saturday with an assortment of native wildlife and barnyard animals.

Some of the animals have been lent to the city by area farmers, while other, permanent residents of the zoo, including a peahen and a silver pheasant, "wintered" at Look Park in Northampton, Hebert said.

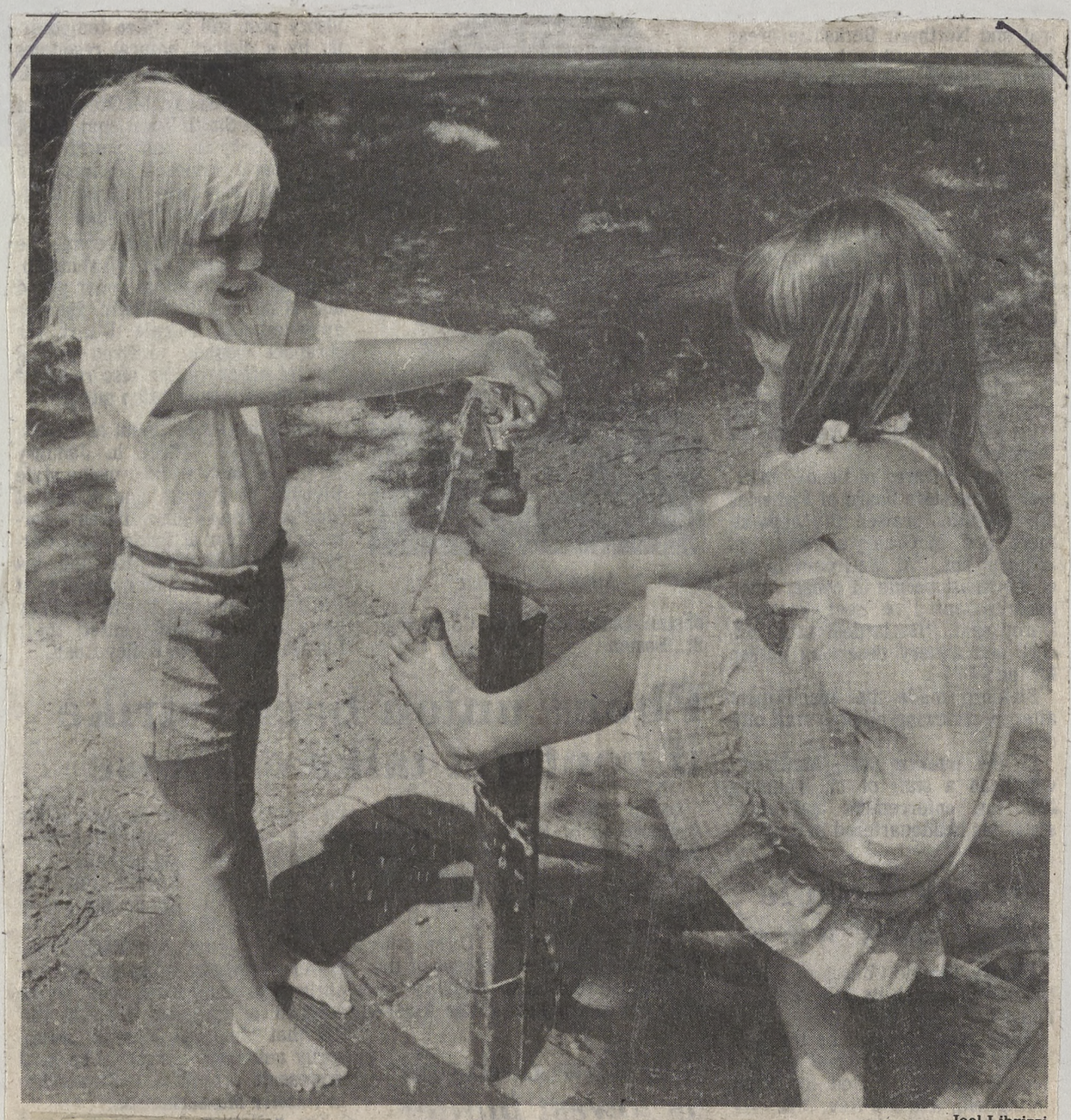
Inhabitants of the zoo this summer will include two raccoons, some sheep, a turkey, two chickens, a peahen and peacock, pheasants, goats and possibly some piglets and a fox.

Hebert said he had planned to have the zoo open for June, July and August, as it has been for the last several years, but was stymied by reductions in his staff and budget. Just last week, the City Council appropriated $1,406 for feed and veterinary bills. Combined with the $1,500 Hebert has in his budget for daily maintenance, the appropriation brings the cost of operating the zoo to $2,906, about the same as last year.

"There's so much demand for the zoo," he said, expressing surprise at the number of inquiries he received when it didn't open on schedule. "It's a pleasant place."

He asked that anyone willing to help with the maintenance of the zoo area and care of the animals contact him at Springside House.

July 13, 1983



Joel Librizzi

July 23, 1983

Cooling her heels

North h.h FIELD

Courtney Turner, 5, trains a stream of water on the foot of Katie Risley, 5. The youngsters were trying to cool off during a visit to Springside Park on a particularly warm day.

July 27, 1983

Park patrols are reduced in keeping with budget cut

Fewer park police will be patrolling the city's playgrounds and beaches this summer as a result of a more than 50 percent cut in the budget for the police, who are seasonal part-time employees.

Director of Community Services Vincent J. Hebert said the budget for park police for the present fiscal year is $8,000, compared to the $16,940 allocated for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

As a result, Hebert said, he beefed up surveillance of the parks at the beginning of the summer season to establish a presence in the parks and set up procedures. In the last two weeks, to conform with the budget limitations, he has been cutting hours for the approximately 12 park police officers who are available.

The officers make from $3.80 to $4.53 per hour, depending on how many years of experience they have, he said. The budget cut translates into a loss of about 1,900 hours of patrolling time.

According to Hebert, the city management study done by Cresap, McCormick & Paget recommended that the city Police Department step up patrols of the parks to fill the gap.

Ward 7 City Councilor Cynthia L. Betters, who said she received a telephone call Monday from a park police officer whose hours had been cut, contacted the mayor to find out why.

"It's been fairly quiet at Pontoosuc and Onota lakes this summer," Mrs. Betters said. "The park police have done a fantastic job."

Referring to the Cresap recommendation, she said, "The city police are out straight. They can't be expected to patrol all the parks, too."

She said she would leave the matter in the hands of the mayor and Hebert, added, "I hope they can straighten it out."

Park Square ban

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

According to the July 20 *Eagle*, the "Take Back the Night" rally can't be held in front of the Courthouse, because of the recent Pittsfield Park Commission vote that rallies can no longer be held in Park Square (the city's traditional site for the citizens to exercise their right of peaceful assembly).

We feel that a rally on a issue of such importance should not be pushed to the back burner of the Common, but should be highly visible and encouraged by local government rather than blocked on a technicality.

In fact, the U.S. Constitution States prohibits any interference with the right of peaceful assembly and dissent; and therefore the recent Park Commission ruling is both unconstitutional and illegal.

The First Amendment expressly states that "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech . . . or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and petition the Government for a redress of grievances." By Article VI of the Constitution, what Congress cannot do, neither can any state of local authority.

We call upon the Park Commission to reconsider its vote, and upon all those who seek legitimate dissent to stand up for their rights as citizens.

We feel that Park Square should be available for legitimate expression of all citizens' right to dissent. Benjamin Franklin, upon leaving the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, was asked what type of government the United States would have; his reply was filled with wisdom relevant to the issue at hand: "It is a democracy, *if* you can keep it."

JAMES A. MARTIN
23 Brown St.
Pittsfield

DANIEL J. DUNN Jr.
157 Brown St.
Pittsfield

JUL 29 1983

Agencies seek to plant trees on park land

The Park Commission deferred action last night on a request from Central Berkshire Programs and the Shire City Co-Op that they be allowed to plant fruit trees in the Benedict Road section of Springside Park.

The food co-op, which orders food in bulk for its members to save money, is a part of Central Berkshire Programs, a self-help agency that provides emergency food and clothing to the poor under the auspices of Berkshire Community Action Council.

According to a letter to the commission from Sal Steven-Hubbard, the area that would be planted with fruit trees is one of Berkshire Community Action Council's community garden sites. The commission would not be held liable for any damage to the trees.

Park Commission Chairman Roger B. Sloper directed Vincent J. Hebert, director of community services, to invite Ms. Steven-Hubbard to the next meeting of the commission to answer several questions, including how many trees would be planted and how much land is involved.

AUG 16 1983

Scrap art

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

How can anyone justify charging almost $9,900 to remove that steel monstrosity from the Dunham Mall? That's almost $10,000 — to some people, that's a year's salary.

If the city paid for its removal, the taxpayers got duped. A junk dealer would have paid the city for the chance to haul it away for scrap.

ROBERT F. FLYNN
39 Arlington St.
Pittsfield

AUG 18 1983

AUG 5 1983

Council committee endorses department head salary schedule

The City Council's Finance Committee Wednesday night approved a list of proposed salaries for city department heads, ranging from $18,401 to $35,000, which will be submitted to the full Council at its meeting Tuesday.

After the Council acts on the matter, a final list will go to the mayor, who had asked for guidance in establishing salaries commensurate with responsibilities of department heads in the newly reorganized city government.

All of the salaries suggested by the Finance Committee have a minimum-to-maximum range in five steps. Chairman Angelo C. Stracuzzi said this was so that compensation could be varied, based on the "education and experience" of the department head.

It's up to the mayor

The actual setting of the salaries is up to the mayor. The only control vested in the Council is its power to reject an appropriation of funds for salaries. It cannot increase an appropriation.

Not long into the meeting in the City Council chamber, a mild contretemps developed involving Stracuzzi and committee member James R. McCaffrey. McCaffrey said he was unable to vote one way or the other on the salaries, because not enough information had been supplied on the duties of the various positions. He said he wanted to see written job descriptions.

"I'm not necessarily against these salaries," said McCaffrey. "Believe me, they're worth this and more."

Stracuzzi replied that the information already at hand was sufficient, that the city personnel department was preparing job descriptions, and that he would not accept McCaffrey's vote of "abstain." He directed the committee secretary to record McCaffrey as opposed if he voted that way — which McCaffrey proceeded to do on all salaries.

The other two members present were Councilors Kenneth G. Warren Jr. and Norman W. Cheever Jr.

Dissent on public works

Besides the uniformly negative votes assigned to McCaffrey, only two other dissents were recorded. One came from Stracuzzi on salary of the commissioner of public works, currently Gerald S. Doyle. The salary range was $27,150 to $33,000. Stracuzzi said it ought to be $24,681 to $30,000.

Until the 1983-84 fiscal year began July 1, Doyle had been making just over $33,000, but his salary was reduced to $30,000 in the current budget. The rationale was that the water and sewer divisions were removed from public works and given to the new Department of Public Utilities, and the city garage was put under the new Department of Maintenance — thus reducing the commissioner's responsibilities.

The highest salary range recommended by the committee would apply to the newly created assistant to the mayor for administration and finance (currently Nicholas J. Sarro), the city solicitor (Edward M. Reilly), and the commissioner of public utilities, a post not yet filled. They would get from $27,795 to $35,000.

Other proposed new salaries:

— $24,681 to $30,000 for the director of maintenance (Ronald Spring) and commissioner of the Office of Community and Economic Development (William J. Angelo).

— $23,036 to $28,000 for the director of community services (Vincent J. Hebert).

— $20,000 to $21,865 for the purchasing director (Edward Ziemba).

— $19,326 to $21,396 for the city accountant (Robert Peck).

The committee voted to retain the following existing salaries:

— $25,855 to $28,087 for the commissioner of public health (Louis A. Bolduc).

— $18,401 to $20,570 for the city treasurer (Francis J. Condron — who actually gets only one-fourth of the salary because he holds a full-time position as city clerk). Warren voted against this, saying the duties of treasurer are now handled by the head of administration and finance.

— $21,028 to $23,212 for the tax collector (David J. Polcaro).

— $22,739 to $24,911 for the city clerk (Francis J. Condron).

— $22,888 to $25,080 for the director of administrative services (Thomas Grizey).

— $23,498 to $26,199 for the head assessor (Michael J. Quigley).

— $22,808 to $25,000 for the building inspector (Robert Pomeroy).

Warren suggested the committee also recommend a salary range for the librarian of the Berkshire Athenaeum. Stracuzzi, a member of the Athenaeum board, supported the idea and said he would broach the subject at the next board meeting and report back to the committee.

Mall reclaimed

To the Editor of THE AGLE:—

Hooray! Hooray! They've taken it away ["Sculpture leaves mall," Aug. 12]. The mass of black steel plates stood for 12 years in front of City Hall as a monument to the morons who allowed it there.

I titter every time I pass the "tombstone" in front of the Federal Building on Columbus Avenue. And that instant dump on North Street labeled "Lifeyard" is another laugh-provoking project.

We have here in the Berkshires many talented artists; unfortunately, we rarely see their fine works displayed. Instead, we are presented with sophomoric attempts to be "avant-garde."

I think the idea of a Berkshire arts festival is great. I think the planning stinks. I suggest we bring the direction off Mount Olympus and down to earth by directing the selection committee to the school of Realism. Let's have more Mona Lisas and less moaning leisures.

ROBERT J. BURKE
25 Weston Ave.
Dalton

AUG 16 1983

AUG 18 1983

More money said needed for policing parks

An additional $13,394.30 is needed to provide "minimum coverage" of the city's parks and playgrounds by park police officers through June 1984, Park Policeman Fred P. Garner told the Park Commission Monday.

Garner said only $1,422 is left in the park police account, which was cut this year to about $8,000. Last year's budget was $21,000, he said, with about $5,000 of that earmarked to hire city police officers for special events.

Since Aug. 8, from $500 to $600 a week has been spent to hire the park police, so the money is running out fast, he added. There will be no money left to hire park police to patrol the parks and provide coverage for the Halloween Parade and the ski tow at Osceola Park and to keep the picnic pavilion at Wild Acres open next spring, according to Garner.

Vincent J. Hebert, director of community services, said he will seek more funds if they become available and that the mayor has been apprised of the situation.

AUG 18 1983

Renzi's views on name change to be sought

In response to a reactivated request to rename Yankee Orchard Park in honor of the late Henry V. Marchisio, the Park Commission decided Monday to invite former Councilor Edward J. Renzi to its next meeting to make a pitch for the name change.

But several commissioners also spoke in favor of establishing a policy to prohibit park name changes in the future. Member Alma Arlos said, "It's difficult to say no when a name is presented to you," but added that she would rather see the parks retain their historic names.

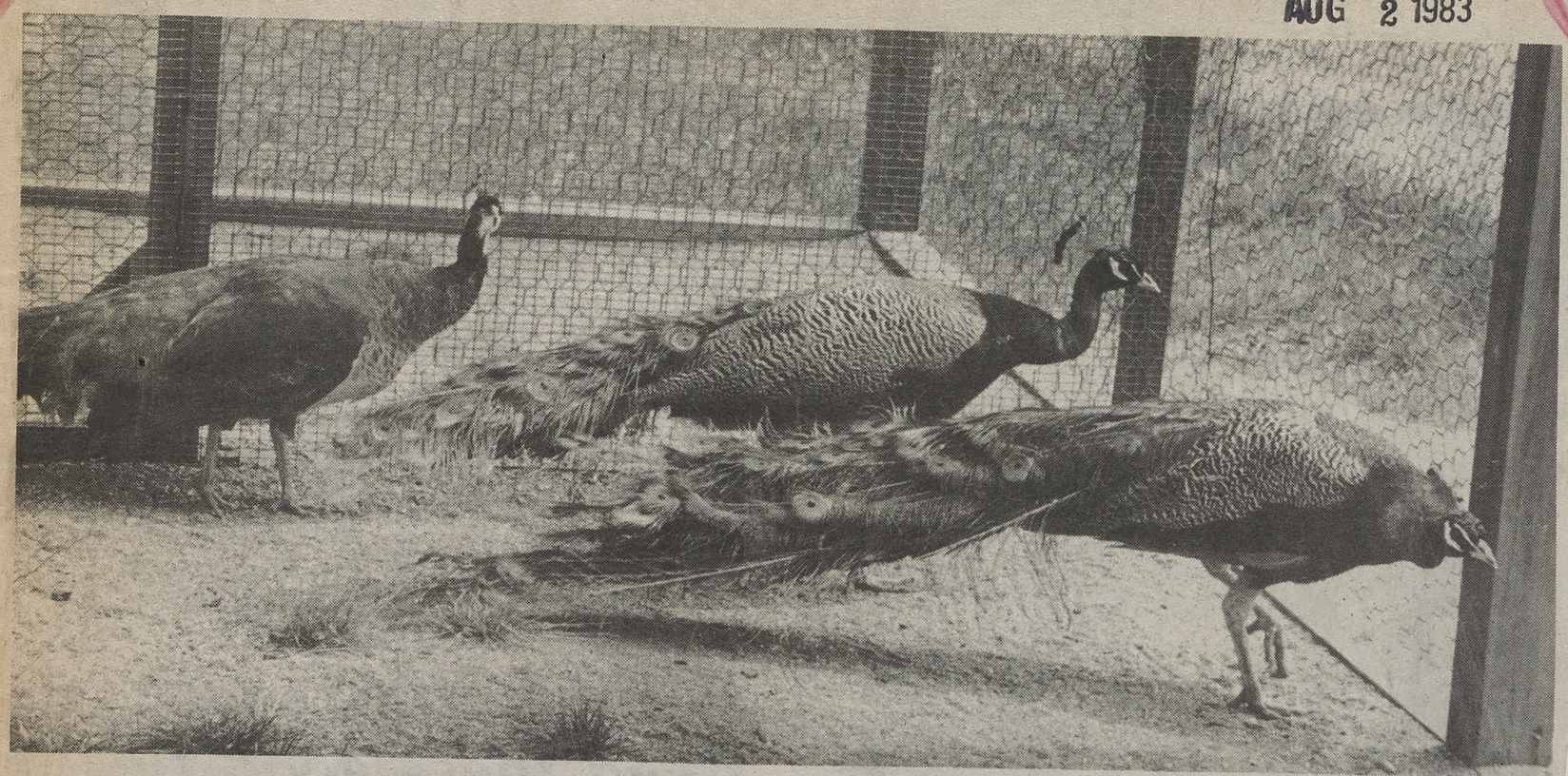
"Maybe we should close the door after this one," she suggested.

Chairman Roger B. Sloper said the commission would consider such a policy.

Marchisio, as Ward 3 city councilor between 1971 and 1975, was instrumental in efforts to create the park. After his death in 1980, Councilors Francis A. Chichetto Jr., Norman W. Cheever Jr. and Angelo C. Stracuzzi submitted a petition to change the name of the park to honor Marchisio, but the request was never acted on.

Renzi, who defeated Marchisio in his bid for re-election in 1975, submitted a new petition, and the Council voted on Aug. 9 to refer it to the Park Commission.

AUG 2 1983



Joel Librrizzi

New male showoffs

Newest additions to the Springside Zoo are two male peacocks shown here at the right, with a peahen at the left. The birds were given to the zoo by the Telephone Pioneers of America, an organization of veteran telephone company employees.

* * * * 8/24/83

REPORT from the Information Booth at Park Square. Among visitors to the Berkshires from afar were a couple from Israel who stopped by. They were driving to Vermont and sought a scenic route, which is easy, and also were interested in attractions en route. Also easy. They were directed to the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, the Williamstown Theater, the Williams College campus and the Bennington Monument. Also cited were the mountains in the region, including, of course, Greylock.

* * * *

WANT to know something? The sundial in the Park was the gift of the Peace Party Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Friday, August 12, 1983



Joel Librizzi

Sculpture leaves mall

The 3-ton steel sculpture by Sahl Swarz that stood by the Dunham Mall fountain for 12 years was trucked yesterday by J.H. Maxymillian Co. to Berkshire Community College where it will be placed on the north part of the campus. Maxymillian will also remove and pave over the fountain, which had become a maintenance problem. The entire job will cost $9,900.

Fenced out

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Why penalize the old, the infirm and the handicapped by allowing only those people who are able to walk in from South Mountain Road to use the Wild Acres area on weekdays?

For years, we have enjoyed the quiet surroundings unbothered by rowdyism as we picnicked or fed, watched and photographed the wild geese and other birds and animals.

Although the citizens of Pittsfield were assured that the same services could be furnished with the expenditure of less money and fewer city employees, the disgraceful condition of our public beaches and the closing of Wild Acres seem to indicate otherwise.

Perhaps someone can explain to us what happened.

ERNEST H. BROSSEAU
454 Tyler St.
Pittsfield

ROBERT L'HOTE
22 Garfield Ave.
Pittsfield

AUG 25 1983

AUG 25 1983

3 city officials could gain in pay as result of new salary ordinance

The paychecks of three city officials could be increased this year under the new salary-range ordinance that won preliminary City Council approval Tuesday.

The ordinance, which is expected to come up for final approval at the next Council meeting, sets five-step pay scales for top administrative slots created or significantly changed in scope by the recent reorganization of city government. It leaves the salary ranges for most other department heads unchanged.

All but two of the new or altered jobs are held by old City Hall hands. Among them are Nicholas J. Sarro, formerly city auditor and now assistant to the mayor for administration and finance, and Gerald S. Doyle, whose title of commissioner of public works has not changed although the number of services he supervises has.

Pending the Council's review of department-head compensation, the salaries of both Sarro and Doyle were pegged at $30,000 in the budget. For Sarro, that represented an increase. For Doyle, it represented an effective decrease of $3,000.

The Council-established salary range for administration and finance director is $28,795-$35,000. The range for commissioner of public works is $27,130-$33,000.

The idea behind providing a five-step range, said Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, is to allow Mayor Charles L. Smith to base the actual salary — within those limits — on the experience and education of the individual holding the job.

That means that after the ordinance gains final passage, Mayor Smith could come back to the Council with a proposal to bring Doyle up to his former salary level or bring Sarro closer to the high end of the scale.

In the committee that hammered out the pay scales, Stracuzzi argued unsuccessfully that the top pay for the commissioner of public works post should be $30,000. The scope of the job has contracted because reorganization moved the sewer, water and city garage divisions of public works into other departments. Stracuzzi maintained that the pay levels should contract also.

The other official whose job has been given a higher potential pay rating — although his post was not affected by reorganization — is City Solicitor Edward M. Reilly. The Council put the solicitor's post on the top pay tier, along with administration and finance director and commissioner of public utilities.

Reilly is budgeted for a $30,000 salary this year. But since he is a recent law-school graduate with only about a year's tenure in the city solicitor's office, he may not gain immediate advantage from the new assessment that the job is worth, at the top, $35,000.

In some cases, the new top salaries are less than those now in the budget. For instance, Director of Community Services Vincent J. Hebert is budgeted to get $28,500 this year. The Council rated the post as a $23,036-$28,000 job. Accountant Robert Peck is budgeted to get about $22,000; on the Council scale, $21,400 is the top rung.

But At-large Councilor Joseph W. Ryan said it is "the sentiment of the Council" that no present department head suffer a pay cut as a result of adoption of the ordinance. In those cases, the steps would apparently become effective on turnover.

The only new administrators on board are Edward J. Ziemba, purchasing director, and William Forestell, commissioner of public utilities.

In theory, the mayor can pick a salary for each of those officials from the five-step menu provided in the ordinance. But the Council must approve his figure.

Other new salary ranges included in the ordinance, by department, are purchasing, $20,000-$21,865, and both maintenance and community development commissioner, $24,681-$30,000.

The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, August 27, 1983—9



Joel Librizzi

MEMORIAL MARCH at Pittsfield's Park Square was held April 16, 1968, as Berkshire County residents mourned the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader.

Park Commission backs renaming of two parks

SEP 9 1983

The Park Commission has endorsed a petition request to rename the Yankee Orchard playground on Dalton Division Road for the late City Councilor Henry V. Marchisio and, along with its endorsement, requested a renaming of its own, of Sackett Park for the late Dr. Robert J. Kirvin, a park commissioner for 25 years.

Both actions were taken despite the commission's earlier reluctance to rename parks for individuals due to the difficulty of singling out persons when so many have given time and service, according to Vincent J. Hebert, director of community services.

"But in both these cases, Mr. Marchisio put so much effort into the creation of the playground, and Dr. Kirvin served the city so long as commissioner, that there was no reluctance on the part of the commission," Hebert said.

Both requests now go to the City Council.

The petition regarding Yankee Orchard was forwarded by the Council, which had received it from Edward J. Renzi, last month. According to the petition, Marchisio while a councilor was instrumental in the city's acquisition of the 20-acre tract in 1975 and its creation of a playground on the site. Marchisio, who represented Ward 3, died in February 1980.

Kirvin served as a park commissioner for 25 years until his death in January of this year. He had been chairman four times.

Hebert said the naming of parks for individuals will be among the policies to be reviewed in line with the change in government structure.

Notes and Footnotes

AUG 30 1983

UPDATE. Last Wednesday we slipped a historic bit in these notes, revealing that "the sundial in the Park was the gift of the Peace Party Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution." Mrs. Daniel Stevens, vice regent of the chapter, later called to say she had read our piece, assumed that the sundial still was there in the park and was delighted. Although our piece hadn't "said" it was, we admit we too believed it was there.

Well, it wasn't and isn't. Had we frequented the Park in, say, the past year or two — or three — we'd have known that. Our only excuse for shunning that grassy oval is that we dare not wade through the hurtling, sweeping currents of traffic that surround and make it an island. Even the traffic lights are programmed too quickly for our navigation. They invariably flash severely "Don't Walk" when we're halfway across, flanked by phalanxes of panting cars about to burst forth.

* * * *

Back to the sundial. The beautifully decorated marble disc was put in place June 24, 1903, at the spot now occupied by the newly restored fountain where the two paths cross. It's rumored that early on this is the spot that gave rise to the zany story, maybe not true, that one night a chap was apprehended at the sundial, waving a flashlight. When accosted, he explained he wanted to find out the time.

Alas, so prominent a decoration has been vandalized. We talked with Vin Hebert, director of community services, who explained that the 3-foot-tall pedestal that supported the dial had been damaged more than once; the dial itself stolen once, then returned and, finally, the stone pedestal stolen, the dial left on the ground.

Mr. Hebert salvaged the dial and it's stored in his office, awaiting city funds to replace it. However, the fountain having supplanted it, a new spot will be determined, "probably alongside the path to the west," said Mr. Hebert. He mentions Proposition 2½ as one reason the sundial is low on the list for city funds, however small the cost may be.

* * * *

AUG 29 1983

Bids on pavilion for Onota Lake exceed funding

Bids for contruction of a picnic pavilion on the Conservation Commission-administered beach on Onota Lake were submitted by two construction companies, but both exceed the $20,000 available for the job.

Assistant City Engineer James J. Riddle, a Conservation Commission member, said the bids were itemized by commission request and that the commission has the right to delete items if necessary to make the work fit its wallet.

Low bidder, at $24,996, was Virgilio Construction Co. The only other bid, from Louis Arace Construction Co., was $39,167. Both were taken under advisement.

The commission received a $10,000 state grant toward the 30-by-60-foot structure, which will be similar to one already in use at Wild Acres recreation area. The City Council matched the grant by approving an appropriation of $10,000.

The bids cover erecting the metal pavilion, complete with walls and windows, as well as pouring a four-inch concrete floor, tying in water, sewer and electric service, partitioning off a 10-by-20-foot food preparation area and furnishing the building with 18 picnic tables.

SEP 8 1983

Children's zoo closes for the season

The children's zoo in Springside Park closed for the season on Labor Day, according to Vincent J. Hebert, director of community services.

Rabbits, goats and raccoons, loaned to the zoo for the season, were collected by their owners Tuesday, he said.

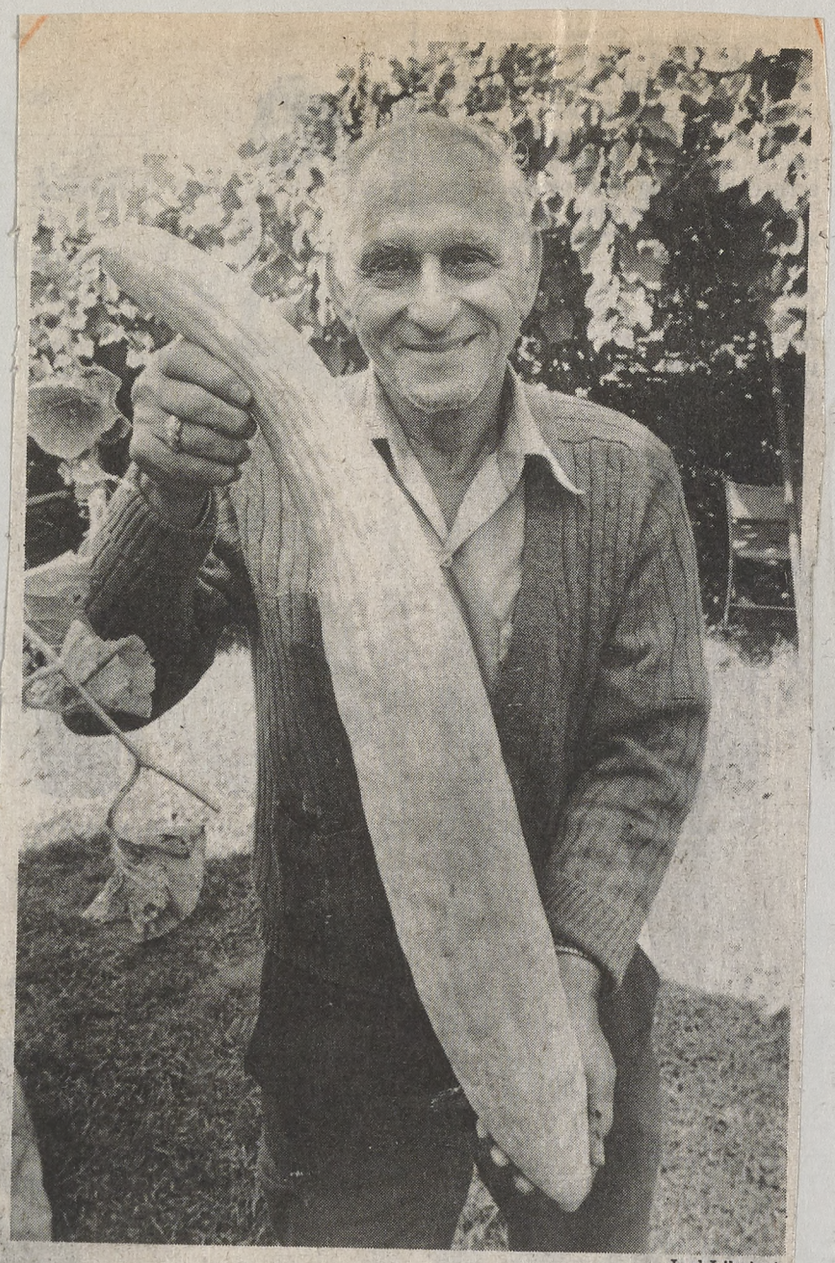
And the five birds owned by the zoo — two peacocks, a peahens, a silver pheasant and a guinea hen — have been delivered to Look Park, Northampton, where they have enclosed quarters during cold weather. Hebert said they will be fetched back to Pittsfield in the spring.

He said the zoo is expected to open next year in mid-June, depending on the budget. Normally, the zoo is open until the end of September, but this year, because of budgetary limitations, it had an abbreviated season, closing early and not opening until July, he said.



Mark Mitchell

PLANTING CHRYSANTHEMUMS at Park Square are members of the Msgr. Marshall Council, Knights of Columbus. The council has been working to keep the park clean of debris all summer as part of the "Adopt a Park Program," and decided to add some fall color by buying the mums and planting them. Left to right are Dominic J. Marine, Charles DeSio, Paul P. DiVirgilio and Donald O. Westbrook.



Joel Librizzi

Colossal cuke

Alexander Hanna has been growing Lebanese cucumbers for years in his garden at 630 West Housatonic St., but he's never had one this big. The giant cuke measures 36 inches long, 14 inches around its widest end and weighs 8 pounds.

SEP 23 1983

Park maintenance is a struggle with cut in crew from 20 to 5

OCT 19 1983

By Gerald B. O'Connor

How do you mow grass, trim trees and otherwise tend nine city parks, 24 assorted playgrounds and athletic fields, and a half-mile of sodded street dividers, all embracing some 890 acres, with five people left in what used to be a 20-man maintenance crew?

Answer: With extreme difficulty, if you're lucky. If you're not, you don't.

This was the upshot of an inconclusive but congenial meeting Monday night of the city's Board of Park Commissioners with Maintenance Director Ronald L. Spring. Under the city's newly reorganized government, Spring and his Department of Maintenance have this task, which was once the province of the former Department of Parks and Recreation.

"You can only move so many people to so many places," sighed Spring.

"I know, Ron. You're doing the best you can with what you've got," said Community Services Director Vincent J. Hebert. "This moving people around isn't good. Our best time was when one person was assigned to specific parks."

"Those days are gone," observed Clifford J. Nilan, a commission member.

In the end, the commissioners decided that Spring, Hebert and a representative from each of the city's high schools — athletic director Mark Brazeau from St. Joseph's and faculty athletic managers Francis J. Moynihan of Pittsfield High and Walter R. Biron of Taconic — should meet to determine priorities for the maintenance crew. No date was set for such a session.

"Soon," was the way Nilan put it.

The reason for the addition of the school trio is that the Maintenance Department is also responsible for lining fields, setting up bleachers and other attendant tasks on city parkland used by the schools for football, soccer and other sports.

"The people on the athletics end want the same kind of service they had before," observed Spring.

Hebert, Spring and the commission aired a number of maintenance problems in the course of a rambling discussion that touched on new signs for Sackett Brook and Yankee Orchards parks, which have been renamed the Robert J. Kirvin and Henry V. Marchisio parks, respectively; the need for temporary summer help in the spring when field preparation is best accomplished but when temporary help isn't available, and keeping adopt-a-park volunteers from getting discouraged when grass in some parks isn't mowed.

The parks "are in such terrible shape," lamented Nilan. "And Pittsfield always prided itself on the beauty of its parks."

"Is there anything we can do to help smooth your operation?" Hebert asked Spring.

"I don't know, Vin. I had to use painters to open up the beach at Onota Lake last summer, and I don't like to do that for obvious reasons," said Spring. "When the schools are closed, that's where they should be."

The 41-member Maintenance Department is not only responsible for upkeep of parks and non-school playgrounds but for city building maintenance and some forestry work as well. And with winter coming on, there were questions Monday night about snowplowing as well.

"I don't know," Spring concluded with a wan smile. "I'll probably be plowing snow myself."

OCT 20 1983

Vietnam Veterans press plan for Park Square war memorial

The Pittsfield chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America want to erect a memorial in Park Square for local servicemen who died, were prisoners of war or are still listed as missing in action in the 1964-75 war in Vietnam.

Members of the chapter asked the Board of Park Commissioners Monday night for clearance to erect such a memorial but were advised to come back with a description or drawing of the memorial they have in mind.

"I think we all favor the idea of a memorial," said Chairman Roger B. Sloper, "but we'd like to see more detail."

The request for a memorial site in the park was presented by VVA member Edward Paro of 17 Pine St. and his wife, Linda, who said they would like the eventual memorial dedicated on the day set aside as Vietnam Veterans Day, which is March 29. "Not necessarily this coming March," said Paro. "It could be too short notice. But certainly the year after."

"We went to one in Springfield last year in March," said Mrs. Paro, "and we'd like to do it here. A dedication with maybe a Gold Star mother and the band from Pittsfield High."

While the request met with general commission approval, it also ran up against the commission's own policy, affirmed in a split vote last July 6, against public gatherings and demonstrations in Park Square. Sloper and commission member Clifford J. Nilan, who with member Paula Virgilio formed the majority on that vote, urged the VVA representatives to consider a memorial in Memorial Park on Colt Road off South Street.

Memorial Park contains a monument in memory of World War I and World War II servicemen killed in action.

But another member of the local VVA chapter, G. Joseph Peck of 406 West St., said members like the centrality and visibility of Park Square. "In the city of Lynn, they have put a memorial about a half-block from City Hall," he said. "And in Washington, D.C., they've put the national Vietnam Memorial right across from the Lincoln Memorial, right in the heart of everything.

"We'd like that here, close to the center," he said.

"At Memorial Park," he added, "I get the feeling I'm being relegated sort of, that a monument would be really taken out of the mainstream. We'd like that shot at Park Square."

Commission member Anthony G. Massimiano suggested the prohibition against gatherings at the park is aimed more at repeated gatherings rather than a once-a-year ceremony like one that would presumably commemorate Vietnam war dead. He said he believed traffic control could be arranged for such an occasion.

"It's important to us," emphasized Paro. "It's been a long time since people paid any attention to the Vietnam War."

He said the chapter's intent is to have a Vietnam veteran design the memorial, which would be "traditional, nothing off the wall," would likely be of stone and would not be unreasonably large.

Chapter members present at the meeting said nine Berkshire soldiers died in Vietnam, but they did not place a number on POWs or MIAs.

Community Services Director Vincent J. Hebert said that once chapter members prepare a description of the memorial they want, the commission and VVA members could view both Park Square and Memorial Park for likely sites. The VVA chapter here, Chapter 65, has a meeting scheduled for Oct. 27 and could discuss commission reaction then, Paro said.

Park Square, which is really an oval, contains four memorials now. The most visible is the big Civil War monument at the west end of the green. The others, all at the east end, are a granite monument to Elkanah Watson, honored as the organizer, in 1810, of the first agricultural society and agricultural fair for common farmers in the U.S.; a granite memorial to Mr. and Mrs. John Chandler Williams who gave the park to the city, and a small stone containing a plaque in memory of Sgt. Edward J. Burns, the first Pittsfield soldier killed in action Dec. 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor.

Besides the Paros and Peck, Lawrence E. Caprari of 1588 North St., president of the local VVA chapter, was present along with another member, George J. Winters of 225 Fort Hill Ave.

Caprari indicated he favors the Park Square site as well as do the others. Although a majority of the Park Commission obviously leaned toward Memorial Park, Caprari said he didn't want to see the Park Square possibility closed.

NOV 1 1983 The Berkshire Ea



Mark Mitchell

PLANTING FLOWERS around the Allengate Arch, members of Brownie Troop 100 at Allendale School work under the supervision of Chester Sumner as part of the Recreation Department's Adopt-a-Park program. The program, designed by the Citizens Volunteer Alliance after cutbacks in parks staff under Proposition 2½, encourages individuals and groups to "adopt" parks and perform routine maintenance chores. Troop leaders are Wilona Flynn and Nancy Halstead.

NOV 4 1983

Angelo discusses plans for four downtown parks

Community Development Commissioner William J. Angelo gave a Council committee a preview of a proposal to revamp four downtown parks last night, and his audience sat on its hands.

The proposal, which, Angelo stressed, is still in the "conceptual" stage, would use what he termed a "common theme" to unite the Common Park, Liberty Mall, Sottile Plaza and the Dunham Mall as part of the overall rejuvenation of downtown.

Trellises and trees would be added to Liberty Mall to echo those to be installed on the new Sottile Plaza facing it across North Street. Trees would be planted to soften and improve the appearance of the First Street parking lot and the Common would receive new lighting, new walks, an expanded play area, a picnic area and a flower garden.

The softball field there would be relocated and resodded and the skating rink area would be reduced in size.

Angelo did not discuss the plans for Dunham Mall at the session.

Members of the Council's Committee on Community and Economic Development raised a variety of objections.

Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman said she favors better lights and walks for the Common, but is "not sure the rest is cost-effective . . . It is not one of my high priorities."

Other members suggested that the Liberty Mall plan would be "throwing good money after bad" because it would not correct the problem caused by winds sweeping that plaza over the railroad tracks and expressed doubts about the desirability of diminishing the skating rink.

At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey said elderly residents of Central Annex on the Common need better lighting, walks and trees but also want peace and quiet. Fields for sports "don't bring peace and quiet," he said.

Paid Political Advertisement Paid Political

Vincent Hebert is honored by recreation group

Vincent J. Hebert, city director of community services, was honored by the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association at its annual dinner in Shrewsbury Wednesday night.

He was presented the association's highest annual award, the Peter C. O'Brien Humanitarian Award, which was established in 1980 in memory of a longtime member. Evelyn Kirrane, director of the Brookline Recreation Department, also received the award.

Hebert, who did not know ahead of time he would be given the award, was presented a plaque "in fond recognition of his many years of service to MRPA and the leisure services field," according to the lettering on it.

Hebert was superintendent of parks and recreation for 33 years before the reorganization of city government placed the Park Department under auspices of the new Community Services Department earlier this year.

Archie DeAngelus, director of the Community Recreation Association in Dalton, and John C. Marchesi, Pittsfield's recreation director, accompanied Hebert to the annual dinner.

NOV 12 1983

Viet war-memorial study reportedly left in limbo

NOV 17 1983

A year-old Council request for a study to recommend an appropriate Pittsfield memorial to honor those who served and died in the Vietnam War sank into limbo, according to Veterans Services Director Theodore Handerek.

Handerek said yesterday that after the Council approved the plan and referred it to him and to Vincent J. Hebert, now director of community services but at that time superintendent of parks and recreation, they agreed that the memorial should honor those who served in World War II and the Korean War as well.

No monument was ever erected for any of them, Handerek said. The war memorial on South Street is dedicated to those who fought in World War I.

But once that decision was made, Handerek said, "nothing more was done. I don't know why."

The issue arose at Tuesday's City Council meeting. At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos proposed forming a committee to recommend a memorial to Vietnam veterans, prompting some of his colleagues to warn against duplication of effort.

The Pittsfield Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America spoke to the Park Commission about erecting such a memorial on Park Square last month, said Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia R. Betters.

Arlos responded that the group backed his petition. At that point, Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto brought up the earlier request forwarded to Handerek. Chichetto said he was on top of the issue because that earlier petition had been his own. "I believe the study is well under way," he said.

Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman said she favors "providing appropriate honor and respect" for veterans of Vietnam, but "I don't want five different groups running around on this."

Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi suggested that the committee be formed with Arlos as chairman and Handerek as a member.

"If Handerek sees it as a duplication of effort, I'm sure he'll come back and tell us," he said.

Chichetto joined the unanimous vote to adopt Stracuzzi's plan, but only after protesting that "there is a study already undertaken. A committee has been established."

12—The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, Nov. 21, 1983

Vietnam veterans would consider joint memorial with other groups

By Judy Katz

Lawrence E. Caprari, president of the Pittsfield chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, said last night he and Veterans Services Director Theodore J. Handerek talked over Handerek's idea for a single memorial honoring those who served in World War II, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War last week. But he said Handerek did not give him a concrete proposal to take back to his membership.

"If it comes up," he said, "it would have to go to a vote."

In a report Handerek prepared for submission to the City Council Nov. 29, he said he met with a committee of representatives of all veterans' organizations April 20 in response to Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr.'s petition for a suitable memorial to recognize Vietnam veterans.

That meeting, Handerek said, produced a recommendation for a combined memorial at the War Memorial park on South Street.

The recommendation was submitted to the Park Commission, he said, but not in writing — verbally, through then-Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert.

Caprari said that as of last night he did not know whether his organization was represented at the April 20 meeting. The chapter had been working quietly for some time to create a memorial to those who died, were listed as missing or were taken prisoner in Vietnam. He said it was not aware any other group was running on a parallel track.

Arousing interest

By going before the Park Commission to request a Park Square site for a memorial, he said, his organization seems to have performed a service by arousing public interest in recognizing those who served their country.

"We're a veterans' organization just like any other veterans' organization," Caprari said. "If the World War II and Korean vets want a memorial, we would support them. We would help."

A combined memorial is only one possibility, he said. Others could be separate commemorations at the park on South Street or a separate or combined monument at Park Square.

Caprari said he prefers Park Square because of its visibility. A memorial there need not create traffic problems, he said. "We wouldn't march to it on Veterans' Day — we'd still march to the War Memorial on South Street. We just want something in the visual part of Pittsfield."

Handerek said he had suggested an appropriately worded plaque incorporated into the existing World War I memorial at South Street rather than erect another statue or commemorative structure.

"I'm taxpayer-minded," he said, adding that the World War I memorial is "a beautiful monument. You couldn't do anything like that today."

Difficult one

The Vietnam Veterans chapter has its plans "well under way," Handerek said. But his committee's work essentially halted after the April meeting. One reason, Handerek said, is that the next step was a difficult one: coming up with the proper wording — powerful, dignified, meaningful and concise — for the suggested plaque.

The Chichetto petition was not the first call for a lasting tribute to those who fell in Vietnam. In 1973, then-Councilor Mary L. Murphy petitioned for creation of a "living memorial" through the Conservation Commission and erection of a metal plaque containing the names of those who died.

After the Pittsfield Vietnam Veterans of America chapter met with the Park Commission — whose receptivity won praise from Caprari — At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos submitted a petition calling for the city to take over the planning and the cost.

Permit for pizza restaurant denied unanimously by ZBA

By Donna B. Mattoon

Antonios Terzis, owner of the Pizza Palace on North Street who wants to open a second pizza restaurant at 25 Ontario St., was denied his petition for a special permit Tuesday by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The vote to deny was unanimous.

Referring to the law that governs special permits for non-conforming uses, ZBA member Irwin "Tom" Renak said Terzis's plans to install a family-type pizza parlor in the building was significantly more non-conforming than the insurance office that formerly occupied the premises. At present, the area is zoned for residential uses.

Other members of the ZBA cited a variety of objections to the petition, including the additional traffic, noise, long hours and general disruption that a pizza parlor might pose to the neighborhood.

Those points had been stressed repeatedly by approximately 20 Ontario Street residents who attended the hearing preceding the vote. Most agreed they are already "harassed enough" by the noise, vandalism and pedestrian traffic generated by nearby Deming Park.

"We are afraid a pizza parlor will only compound the problem," said Robert J. Maher of 36 Ontario St., who presented the board with a petition signed by "95 percent of the neighbors in the immediate area" who opposed the business.

Claiming that Deming Park is a constant hangout for youths in the area, Ward 3 Councilman Norman I. Cheevers listed instances of broken windows, gas-siphoning, stealing and noisy congregating. He said residents of the area have already had "enough grief."

"Granting one more permit will just provide another opportunity to harass these people," Cheevers said.

'Tight ship'

Speaking on his own behalf, Terzis said he already runs a "tight ship" at the Pizza Palace on North Street and intended to do the same on Ontario Street. While no one challenged that claim, Cheevers appeared to summarize the group's concerns by highlighting the lack of control Terzis would have over groups that might assemble nearby after eating at his restaurant.

"Terzis will have limited control on his property and no control off his property," he speculated.

James P. Creran, who owns a house next door to the building in question, claimed a pizza parlor on Ontario Street would be the "final blow" to the neighborhood.

"It's not an essential service," he said, voicing additional concerns that Terzis might expand his pizza operation to include beer and arcades — a prospect that Terzis earlier said was not in his plans.

Robert Moynihan of 27 Ontario St. said a check with a local realtor produced news that any kind of a restaurant in a residential district would devalue neighboring homes.

"This is a nice neighborhood, and we've worked hard to keep our homes up," Moynihan said.

Earning a round of applause from the audience, 83-year-old Kenneth F. Johnson of 22 Ontario St. said he had lived on the street longer than anyone else in the room and brought forward pictures of the neighborhood when the former Model Dairy operated out of the building that Terzis wanted to use.

Johnson, who said he owned a 10-car garage for neighborhood use, said customers blocked the narrow street when the dairy was in business, and residents often had trouble getting their cars out of the garage.

In addition to concerns expressed by the neighborhood residents, the ZBA also received a letter from Vincent J. Hebert, representing the city's Department of Community Services.

According to the letter, the Park Commission had received numerous complaints from area residents concerning large gatherings in Deming Park and the excessive noise and vandalism produced by those gatherings.

NOV 25 1983

Talks to begin on memorial

A committee established by the City Council to plan a memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War will meet for the first time Monday evening at 7:30 in the mayor's office.

The committee, established Nov. 15 and chaired by At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos, also includes Veterans Services Director Theodore J. Handerek and two members of the Berkshire County chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America.

Lawrence E. Caprari, chapter president, said that his organization will be glad to assist the city in its plans — Handerek had suggested a plaque rededicating the South Street World War I memorial to include those who fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam — but that his group wants to continue its own almost-completed work on a privately funded memorial.

"We don't want city money," Caprari said. "We can raise the money."

The chapter already has $1,000 toward its planned memorial to those who died, were listed as missing or were taken prisoner in Vietnam, he said, and the chapter wants city assistance only in getting a site.

NOV 29 1983

Arlos, veterans disagree on approach to memorial

By Judy Katz

Undaunted by At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos's charge that "you are continuing to isolate yourselves from the mainstream," representatives of the Berkshire chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America last night reiterated that the only government aid they want for their planned Vietnam War memorial is 6 square feet of public land.

"We have no desire of involving the taxpayers' funds," said Thomas G. Lareau, one of the representatives. "And with all due respect, we also don't want to involve politics. The whole war was politics. Because of politics, we had a lot of people killed."

The Vietnam veterans' chapter wants to see scarce tax money used for such things as education, interjected chapter president Lawrence E. Caprari. He added that his group wants to establish an annual scholarship for the children of Vietnam veterans as well as a physical memorial.

Lareau said the group will continue to solicit private donations, design a monument, present the design for approval and, if it is approved, build it. "We do not want it to be a great political question," he said.

But it was clear from the outset of last night's initial meeting of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Committee that the memorial already had become a political question.

Arlos had petitioned the City Council to form the committee shortly after the veterans' group asked the Park Commission for a sliver of public land. Arlos was named committee chairman.

Change of mind

He told Lareau and Caprari that his idea, when he submitted the petition, had been for a bronze statue in the park next to City Hall, erected at city expense and emblazoned with the Vietnam service medal and the names of those who served in Vietnam.

But, he said, after talking to a large number of people (later, he specified that the number was 10 or 12, including several interviewed at the American Legion) his thinking had changed.

"You have to be responsive to the community consensus," he said. He said the consensus calls for a memorial honoring the veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict as well as the war in Vietnam.

The people he had spoken to "are respectable guys," Arlos declared, prompting Lareau to ask with a grin, "You don't respect us?"

Arlos called for a public hearing — set, at the end of the meeting, for Jan. 10 at 7:30 in the City Council chamber — "to see what the community thinking is."

If "it is the consensus of the public" that a memorial should be established for all three, Arlos said, "then we should do it. If not, we should do nothing."

Pittsfield's only existing war memorials are the statue on Park Square honoring those who served in the Civil War and the World War I memorial on South Street.

"We don't want to drive a wedge between the World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans," Lareau objected. "We have every intention of providing our own funds, and we will support the other veterans if they decide they want memorials."

Handerek suggestion

Many of his group's 100 members, he pointed out, are also members of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Caprari repeated his earlier statement that if Veterans Services Director Theodore J. Handerek's suggestion to add a plaque to the South Street war memorial and rededicate it to those who fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam as well as those who fought in World War I should be adopted, his chapter will back it to the hilt.

"You're talking about plaques," exclaimed Arlos. "I had something more sophisticated in mind . . . If we're not going to do this properly, I don't want to do it at all. If it's going to be done in an amateur way, I'm not interested in getting involved in that at all."

Handerek, also a committee member, proposed that the committee write a letter to the Park Commission endorsing the Vietnam veterans' plan and request for a site. The veterans' group had given a Park Square location as its first choice.

"If we make a commitment before a public hearing, why have a public hearing?" Arlos retorted. "If they want a memorial to themselves, let them. It's a free country. We can't stop them."

"Do you want to stop us?" Caprari asked, remarking that in his opinion Arlos was doing exactly what his group wanted to avoid — "trying to drive a wedge between the veterans' groups and trying to make us the bad guys."

Mayor Charles L. Smith interjected that the public desire Arlos had detected for a combined memorial — one also expressed earlier by a committee of veterans organizations consulted by Handerek — probably stems from an impression that tax dollars are involved.

At one point he turned to Lareau and asked why the city is involved in the issue.

"Because," said Lareau, "we went to the Park Department for a small bit of land."

Flood project at Clapp Park is completed

NOV 25 1983

A flood protection project behind Clapp Park that was designed to alleviate flooding in the West Housatonic Street area has been completed and inspected, Mayor Charles L. Smith announced Wednesday.

Smith said the project should prevent a recurrence of the severe flooding that struck the area in 1979. That year, the Housatonic River overflowed its banks near Zoar Avenue and water reached a depth of 4 feet at the Pittsfield Plaza.

The work was done by J.H. Maxymillian Inc. of Lanesboro, which was awarded a $376,000 contract for it by the Army Corps of Engineers. The project involved the installation of three culvert pipes 8 feet in diameter and 465 feet long under the Penn Central railroad tracks adjoining the southeast section of Clapp Park.

Council restores funds for recreation supervisor

NOV 30 1983

The City Council last night approved a $14,000 appropriation that restores the Department of Community Services recreation payroll to the status quo ante — to where it was before this year's round of budget cuts and before the department was reorganized in response to the Cresap, McCormick & Paget city management report.

The recreation segment of the old Department of Parks and Recreation had a payroll of about $74,100 last year. Last night's appropriation brought this year's payroll for that segment's successor, the Department of Community Services, to about $77,300 by restoring the salary for the position of recreation supervisor.

About $10,700 of that was earmarked directly for the salary account. The other $3,292 will replenish the winter sports account, which was tapped during the summer to provide the recreation supervisor's pay.

The recreation supervisor's position was eliminated in the budget that took effect July 1 against the recommendation of management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget. The consultants had recommended eliminating the director of recreation, a job the mayor and City Council kept.

Mayor Charles L. Smith spoke for the appropriation, saying that the recreation supervisor coordinates the Adopt-a-Park program under which volunteers take over park maintenance chores.

The number of park maintenance workers was cut from 18 to six in response to Proposition 2½, he said. As a result, the Adopt-a-Park volunteer program "is the only way our parks can survive."

The program needs someone to supervise it, he said, and to make sure volunteers have the materials they need.

Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman raised the only objection. She praised the volunteers and their work, but pointed out that park maintenance is now the responsibility of the Department of Maintenance, not the Department of Community Services.

"This fits under the Department of Maintenance," she said. "I don't know if the answer [is to fill the supervisor's job] or to hire more maintenance workers, but it belongs in maintenance."

Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi joined Mrs. Ausman in voting against the appropriation, which was approved 9-2.

DEC 6 1983

Scheduling problem develops with visit of top drum corps

By Donna B. Mattoon

James L. Brassard, publicity chairman of the July 4th Parade Committee, had both good and bad news for the Park Commission last night.

According to Brassard, nine of the top 25 drum and bugle corps worldwide have agreed to include Pittsfield in their Eastern tour this summer.

But the bad news, Brassard said, is that Drum Corps International can only be in the city on July 4th and will need the entire parking lot and stadium at Wahconah Park to accommodate its activities.

For several years, the Firemen's Muster has occupied the stadium and parking lot for the July 4th holiday, and more recently the Pittsfield Babe Ruth League has sponsored a carnival to help fund its programs.

According to Vincent J. Hebert, the Babe Ruth League raised $3,500 from the carnival last year to defray program expenses. In addition, Hebert said that Jules E. Gillette of Peck's Road, owner of the carnival, provides the city with two free nights of fireworks in return for the business he receives at Wahconah Park.

While no members of the Park Commission appeared opposed to Brassard's request, some expressed fears that a drum and bugle competition at Wahconah Park would cancel out the fireworks and carnival — both apparently popular and long-standing events, according to Park Commissioner Anthony G. Massimiano.

Members of the commission suggested relocating the July 4th carnival to the vacant Parcel 3 lot but tabled any further discussion until the next meeting, when Gillette and members of the Babe Ruth League would also be present.

Following the meeting, Brassard acknowledged that the Park Commission faced a difficult dilemma. "We don't want to put the carnival out of business, but we need the stadium and parking lot," he said.

Last year, the event attracted over 5,000 people and after expenses, raised $6,000. That amount paid for the July 4th parade, Brassard said.

Brassard said that Drum Corps International comes with an entourage of about 52 buses and several tractor-trailers.

"I hope we can come to some sort of resolution," he said.

Flood project

In other action, Hebert reported that the Clapp Park Flood Control Project is still under way, with the engineering portion of the project nearly completed.

Hebert said he intends to meet with contractor James J. Maxymillian to review progress on the road leading to the new parking lot and plans to move the skating shelter from its old location to the new parking area, which will be flooded for skating this year.

Also, members of the Park Commission have called for a joint meeting of park and other city officials to resolve some maintenance problems that have occurred since the city's new reorganization.

According to Hebert, the Park Commission still does its own program planning, while maintenance of the programs is now provided by one general city maintenance department. For example, the winter skiing program at Osceola Park is planned by the commission, but the ski lift is now installed by the city's Department of Maintenance.

The outcome of the joint meeting, Hebert said, would be a yearly timetable of park programs so that city crews can have whatever equipment or work that the program requires done on time.

DEC 20 1983

July 4 plans fraught with difficulties

By Debra DiMassimo

The Park Commission decided last night to delay until Thursday a decision on whether the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade Committee or the Gillette carnival — or both — should be allowed to use Wahconah Park on July 4.

At last night's meeting, members of the parade committee argued that they need the entire parking lot and stadium to accommodate nine of the world's 25 top-ranking drum and bugle corps that have agreed to include Pittsfield in their Eastern tour this summer. The date cannot be changed, they said.

However, Jules E. Gillette of Peck's Road, owner of the carnival, said he would be willing to "cut my show in half," use only half the parking lot and turn off the music that accompanies the carnival attractions during the drum corps competition that night.

Reluctant to choose between the carnival and the drum corps competition, the Park Commission arranged to meet with representatives of both at Wahconah Park Thursday at 9:30 a.m. At 7:30 p.m., they will meet at Springside House to vote on the matter.

James L. Brassard, publicity chairman for the Fourth of July Parade Committee, said the competition drew almost 5,000 people last year and yielded a net profit of $6,000 to help pay for the parade.

Committee President Beverly A. Chartier said she would contact Drum Corps International today to see if the organization objects to sharing Wahconah Park with the carnival.

Gillette, noting that he donates $3,500 to the city Babe Ruth League and provides two free nights of fireworks at a cost of $1,750 each night in exchange for using the park, said, "The parade means something to the city, but the fireworks and carnival mean something to the city, too."

JAN 4 1983

Smith has second thoughts on Civil Service problems

By Judy Katz

After thinking it over, Mayor Charles L. Smith is not as sure as he was Friday that Pittsfield should pull out of the state Civil Service system. But he said certain changes in Civil Service law are desperately needed to protect municipal workers against the Proposition 2½ ax.

Smith said he called for a Civil Service pullout while still fuming over an Eagle editorial brief. The editorial suggested that city officials were at fault for "blaming the Statehouse for mistakes made at the local level" if it was true that Smith was aware, when he appointed five local men to the Fire Department, that three former North Adams firefighters legally had first call on the jobs.

When he said Friday that he will seek Pittsfield's withdrawal from Civil Service, the mayor said he had forgotten that state police and fire departments are excluded from the law that allows municipalities to set up their own Civil Service systems.

Council was briefed

State Rep. Thomas R. Lussier briefed the City Council on the law last March and warned that a local system would probably cost more. A city committee appointed to study adoption of a local system determined it would be costly and did not recommend it. Smith said yesterday he wants to hold off until he obtains a solid estimate of extra costs and determines whether the city would have to administer its own tests.

The mayor said he was not aware of the North Adams names on the re-employment list when he attempted to appoint the local candidates. He said he does not doubt that Fire Chief Joseph W. Coy consulted Lussier about the re-employment list problem before the local names were submitted to the City Council for confirmation. But, he said, he knew nothing about that conversation.

At some earlier time, he said, he may have been aware "of the possibility of some North Adams firemen. But when the list came, I did not expect to see any North Adams firemen on it. I assumed that if Civil Service sends me a list, it is an honest-to-goodness legitimate list."

The mayor said he does intend to ask the City Council to request changes in statewide Civil Service law that would make the mayor the appointing authority for all city departments and make time in grade rather than total time in municipal service the basis for determining seniority.

The changes would create interdepartmental "bumping" rights for workers whose jobs are eliminated due to Proposition 2½ and provide extra protection for recently-promoted workers, he said.

At present, seniority controls layoffs only within departments. If, for example, a clerk with 15 years' service is the low woman on the seniority pole in her department, she cannot move to another department where the most senior clerk has five years' service.

Smith also said there have been some "very bad instances" in which a worker who had advanced one grade had to leapfrog back two in order to keep working.

In the Fire Department, he said, a captain whose job is eliminated would have to drop all the way back to firefighter if the lieutenants' slots were filled with men who had more total years of service, even if they had less tenure at their present rank.

"The present law doesn't protect those who apply themselves," the mayor said.

Smith said he has talked to city union heads about the changes. "In my opinion, all of them would be in favor of both," he said.

Although he has not discussed it with mayors of other cities or unions outside Pittsfield, he said, "I can't imagine any unions not being in favor of it."

He surmised that the changes would have the support of many other municipal executives who are facing the same problems under Proposition 2½.

JAN 25 1983

Petition before Council would add 8 firefighters

By Judy Katz

A push by three councilors to hire all eight men with claims on Pittsfield firefighting jobs will come before the City Council tonight.

City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, Ward 1 Councilor John R. O'Gara and Ward 2 Councilor Kenneth G. Warren Jr. have filed a joint petition urging the mayor to offer jobs to three former North Adams firefighters and five local men whose appointments to the department were invalidated by Civil Service.

After the Council confirmed the appointments of the five local men, the state Department of Personnel Administration informed the mayor that by law, the laid-off North Adams firefighters had to be considered first when vacancies were filled.

At that time there were six slots open in the Fire Department, but Mayor Charles L. Smith planned to fill only five. Shortly afterward, disability retirements created two more vacancies.

Smith was asked about two weeks ago to resolve the issue by filling all eight jobs even though they might end in layoffs due to lack of funds before July 1. Before acting, the mayor said, he wanted to be certain that the move would not endanger the job security of any presemnt firefighters.

The question arose because the North Adams men's prior service in that city would add to their seniority. Since layoffs are by seniority, Smith worried that some existing firefighters might be credited with less total service than new appointees from North Adams.

Smith said yesterday that he has determined that worry is groundless. No present firefighter's status would be threatened by taking on the North Adams men, he said.

He said he will listen to the debate tonight with an open mind but will take no immediate action. After the five original appointments hit a snag, Smith said he intended to wait for the results of a consultant's city management study before filling any of the vacancies. The study report is expected about Feb. 1.

The pressure is on to get the five local men onto the Fire Department roster because their names are on a Civil Service list that will expire soon. Once appointed, they would be eligible for callback when vacancies occur. Otherwise, they will have to retake the Civil Service examination.

Several other city administration matters are on tonight's Council agenda as well.

Mayor Smith is forwarding a request from City Hall union heads that the Council seek a Civil Service change making the mayor the appointing authority for all city departments. In most departments, the appointive power rests with the department head.

The change would give added protection to senior workers in case of layoffs by allowing them to "bump" across department lines. That cannot be done now. A clerk with 17 years of city service could be laid off while in an office across the hall another with five years service remains on the job.

The mayor has already said he favors the change.

Petitions from At-Large Councilor

JAN 21 1983

Area sports

Fund-raising meeting slated for Lovellette, Connor

MEETING: A meeting to organize a fund-raising campaign to help former Taconic High athletes Keith Lovellette and Mark Connor is scheduled for Tuesday night at 7 at the Parks Department offices on upper North Street.

Lovellette, a former Berkshire County baseball Most Valuable Player who played the past two seasons for the University of Massachusette, has had his career placed in serious jeopardy after being injured in a car-pedestrian accident in Amherst last month. He sustained leg and foot injuries, and is still hospitalized. Connor, a former baseball and football player at Taconic, was also seriously injured in the same accident.

Anyone wishing to help the fund-raising effort is asked to attend Tuesday's meeting. Anyone wishing to help but unable to attend the meeting should contact Jim Broderick at his home on Brown Street.

JAN 25 1983

Health insurance panel to study creation of HMO

By Gerald B. O'Connor

A health insurance study commission established by Mayor Charles L. Smith last fall is exploring the climate for creation of a health maintenance organization (HMO) here.

Chairman Robert Levesque said commission members are planning to visit the Capital Area Community Health Plan in Latham, N.Y., to see how one operates. It is one of more than a dozen HMOs in New York state and has health centers in Canaan, Hudson and Hoosick Falls, N.Y., as well as Latham. Its membership as of Jan. 1, 1981, was 32,000 and was growing.

Smith, who disclosed the existence of the study commission in a conversation with a reporter Friday, said it was set up as a result of sharply rising health-insurance costs and negotiations over the past three years with city public-employee unions for changes in the way insurance premiums are paid. At present, the city pays half the cost and employees pay the other half.

"Our costs for Blue Cross-Blue Shield increased 35 percent this year alone," said the mayor, adding that he is going to attend a meeting on the topic of municipal health insurance in Cambridge on Feb. 10.

That meeting has been set up by Cambridge City Manager Robert W. Healy, who has invited Smith, along with mayors and selectmen from the other cities and large towns in the state, to take part.

Healy, in a letter to Smith, said the cost of group health insurance has reached "crisis" proportions and absorbs 5 percent of the Cambridge city budget.

$2.5 million this year

Health insurance for city employees in Pittsfield is costing roughly $2.5 million this year. The city's 50-percent share of that sum is about 3.5 percent of the budget.

"The days of the $6-a-week family group insurance plan are deceased," said Levesque. "When health insurance starts to take $23.44 a week from your paycheck, which it does now, you need to look at alternatives." That's what the study group is doing.

Health maintenance organizations aren't the only thing. "We're looking into some proposals by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, for instance," said Levesque.

"We're also looking at ways to lower Blue Cross-Blue Shield costs, and looking at self-insurance and medical plans from commercial insurance companies," said another member of the commission, John W. Shaughnessy Jr.

Shaughnessy was a guest on Smith's half-hour "Inside City Hall" television show on Channel 2 Sunday night at 6:30. It will be repeated at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

"I know [the study commission] is looking into HMOs and that HMOs are sort of controversial," said Smith. "They're the closest thing to socialized medicine. But we've got to do something about these insurance costs."

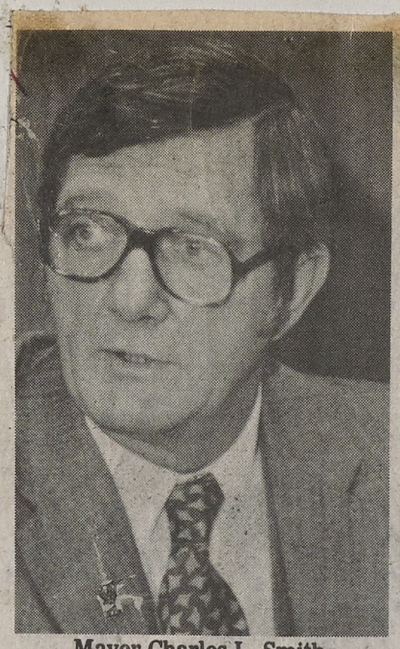
A 1980 study by a professional consulting firm from Pennsylvania concluded that a locally based HMO in the Berkshires is not financially feasible. Population is insufficient, doctors are generally hostile to the idea and there are relatively high benefits from existing health insurance, the consultant declared.

However, the firm stated that the county "may well be an attractive market" for a branch of the Capital Area HMO in Albany, which could be expanded at "marginal cost."

Members of the insurance study commission are drawn largely from city employee unions which negotiate with the mayor directly for on health insurance. Chairman Levesque is from the Pittsfield Police Association and Shaughnessy is from the School Department's Custodians Association.

Other members are Patricia Sanginetti, commission secretary, from the City Hall clerical employees' union; George Howes, data processing department; Gerard Miller, firefighters; John Groat, traffic department; Gennaro M. Principe, teachers' union, and Alfred Terranova, the School Department's association for principals and adjustment counselors.

Smith, City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro and Lawrence Grizey, director of administrative services, are ex-officio members.



Mayor Charles L. Smith
Costs going up

JAN 27 1983



Susan Plageman

ICE BASKET by student chefs at Pittsfield High School decorates Park Square and holds a poinsettia for color. Ice sculpture is taught in PHS food trades classes.

FUND-RAISER: A benefit fund-raiser for former Taconic High athletes Keith Lovellette and Mark Connor has been scheduled for Sunday night, Feb. 27, from 6 p.m. to closing at the GEAA on Crane Ave.

Lovellette, a former Berkshire County Most Valuable Player in baseball and Connor, a former baseball and football player at Taconic, were both seriously injured in a car-pedestrian accident recently in Amherst. Connor is paralyzed from the waist down, and Lovellette is currently in the process of underoing a series of operations to rebuild his foot. A regular with the UMass baseball team for the past two seasons, Lovellette will never play baseball again.

Tickets for the fund-raiser are priced at $5 each. There will be both an advance sale of tickets and a pick-up for anyone who wishes to help with ticket sales tonight from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Parks Department offices on upper North Street.

Any individual or organization wishing to donate to the fund may sent contributions to the Lovellette-Connor Fund in care of the Union Federal Savings Bank.

Anyone desiring further information on either the fund or the benefit program may contact Jim Broderick at his home on Brown Street.

* * * *

JAN 27 1983

Should Pittsfield drop Civil Service?

For all the bad-mouthing that the state Civil Service system gets, it does have a number of virtues. Not the least of them is that it saves towns and cities much of the expense and trouble of maintaining a first-rate, merit-based personnel-administration system of their own.

This feature of Civil Service should be paramount in the minds of Pittsfield city officials as they consider the mayor's suggestion that the city drop out of Civil Service altogether. With municipal revenues as limited as they are at this point, it would be sheer folly for the city to take on a costly new administrative duty unless there were demonstrable compensating advantages in doing so.

The proposal for a go-it-alone approach has come up at this point as a result of Pittsfield officials' frustration over a state law requiring that laid-off firefighters from other cities get hiring precedence over Pittsfield applicants with no experience if the city chooses to fill vacancies in its Fire Department. As the mayor and others are now finding out, however, simply withdrawing from Civil Service will not preserve vacancies in the Pittsfield department for hometown men or women.

The 1981 law that makes it possible for communities to set up their own Civil Service operations specifically excludes, for good reasons or ill, police and fire departments. To get them out from under the state system, the city would have to persuade the Legislature to pass special legislation that would, in all likelihood, run into opposition from the state's police and firemen's unions.

If the city cannot get such legislation, the case for a locally run personnel system becomes more questionable than ever. Pittsfield will have to weigh carefully any proposal to set up a whole new Civil Service operation of its own for a relatively small part of the municipal work force. Civil Service may be a case where home rule has to give way to economies of scale.

JAN 4 1983



MORNING UNION JAN. 28, 1983

Photo by Sandra E. Constantine

Cool sculpture

This ice sculpture, created by student chefs from Pittsfield High School, adorns Park Square in downtown Pittsfield. Carving figures from ice is part of the school's food trades program.

FUND-RAISER: Ticket outlets have been announced for the fund-raiser for former Taconic High athletes Keith Lovellette and Mark Connor, both of whom were seriously injured in a car-pedestrian accident in Amherst recently.

The benefit is scheduled for Sunday night, Feb. 27, at the GEAA.

Tickets may be purchased at the Boys' Club, the Coaches' Corner, Chuck's Place, the Pittsfield American Legion, the Tiffany Pub, the Saucy Skillet, Home Plate Cafe, the Mancy & Rizzo Spirit Shop, Mazzer's Variety, the Friendship Lounge and at the Dugout and the Hard Hat Cafe in Dalton.

Donations may also be sent to the Lovellette-Connor Fund, care of the Union Federal Savings Bank.

The finance committee for the fund comprises Al Bradley, Don Ostrikis and Dan Caritey, while Mike Mele is in charge of publicity and Irma Ringie and Carol McHugh make up the ticket committee.

Mrs. Ringie and Mrs. McHugh will be at the Park Department offices on upper North Street from 7 to 8 Thursday night to accept early returns from ticket sales or donations.

Feb. 1, 1983

Final figures show United Way fell $24,000 short of its target

By William Tague

The 1982 Berkshire United Way fund drive finally ended last night with a poolside party at the Berkshire Hilton Inn and the announcement that the total raised was $1,201,608.

Though $24,392 short of the $1,225,000 goal, the total was the greatest amount ever raised in a United Way drive, exceeding the previous record of $1,111,167 set last year by $90,441.

In announcing the final amount, Cynthia A. Spinola, campaign chairman, termed it a "thrilling" accomplishment that was achieved despite adversity. The recession, rising unemployment and the departure in mid-year of United Way's executive director, Fritz M. Heinemann, were the adverse factors she was referring to.

The 1982 drive was the first after the merger last year of Central Berkshire United Way (Pittsfield, Lanesboro and Lenox) and the Lee United Community Fund. It was also marked by two extensions. The first, launched Nov. 22 was called the "Second Chance Campaign" and it raised $50,132 by its Dec. 10 deadline.

The second extension, coming just before Christmas, was prompted by a four-to-one challenge grant of $5,000 offered by three local companies and a Dalton couple. Though the required $20,000 wasn't met, the effort brought in another $11,185, Ms. Spinola said.

She told the 150 people attending the party that the campaign benefited substantially from several special events, such as an auction and a fall foliage running race, and hoped more of these would be held in the future. Also, she said, the 21 social service agencies receiving United Way money were called upon in the 1982 campaign more than ever before to help out with the fund raising, with good effect.

Better than 90%

A breakdown of the campaign results showed that all nine divisions achieved 90 percent or better of their goals. Three exceeded 100 percent. They were the major corporations B division, with 100.6 percent of its $44,000 goal; leadership gifts division, with 103.3 percent of its $40,000 goal, and the miscellaneous division, with 101.7 percent of its $12,000 goal.

Sections that went over the top were food and lodging, 148.5 percent over a $7,000 goal; Berkshire Community College, 121 percent over a $5,000 goal; physicians, 115.9 percent over a $28,000 goal; Hillcrest Hospital, 101.9 percent ovver a $13,000 goal, and real estate, 100.3 percent over a $1,500 goal.

Special plaques for "outstanding volunteerism" were awarded to Raymond and Mary Jo Boyer, Evan and Kit Dobelle, Eugene A. Dellea and Hillcrest Hospital, and Tamara S. Peters, who served as interim executive director until the arrival of James G. Williamson, the new executive director earlier this month.

Certificates for "special assistance" were presented to the heads of eight United Way agencies:

Boy Scouts, YMCA, United Cerebral Palsy, American Red Cross, MSPCC, Women's Services Center, Berkshire Center for Families and Children, Pittsfield Boys' Club and Catholic Youth Center.

Others receiving certificates for volunteer services were the Berkshire Hilton Inn, Arace Datsun Mazda, Parks Commissioner Vincent J. Hebert, Art Trasatti of Skyline Country Club, Edward Skowron of Berkshire Life Insurance Co., Scott Behrent of the Boy Scouts and Josh Weeks of United Cerebral Palsy.

Also, Therese McGill and Jeff Thompson of Hillcrest Hospital, Phil Cranson of the East Street Burger Chef, Civil Defense Director Thomas G. Grizey, Barbara Guisti of the Girl Scouts, Theodore Herberg, Chief Stanley Stankiewicz for the Police Department, Beverly Heinemann, Dorothy Loehr, Marvin Cohen, The Berkshire Eagle, and radio stations WBEC, WBRK and WUPE/WUHN.

JAN 28 1983



Joel Librizzi

AT HEIGHT OF STORM yesterday this is how North Street appeared in front of St. Joseph's Church. The snowfall was at its most intense in the late morning hours.

FEB 8 1983

Friday, Feb. 11, 1983

35 turn out for meeting on Soap Box Derby

About 35 youngsters turned up at the Elks Lodge Tuesday for an informational meeting about the Pittsfield Soap Box Derby, scheduled to return to the city this June after a 16-year absence.

Gennaro Aulisio, director of the event, said 12 youngsters actually signed up. Formal registration will be March 1 at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, sponsors of the event.

Aulisio, a derby contestant at one of the last races here, in 1962, said the youngsters will be seeking sponsors, usually businesses, to fund the $115 cost of a kit of wheels and hardware to be obtained from the national headquarters.

Parents will be responsible for another $100 for wood and finishing materials, he said.

Aulisio said the participants will have a letter to vouch for their authenticity when they seek sponsorship from businesses.

Aulisio asked that youngsters planning to enter contact him at his home at 442-1663 or at La Chapelle restaurant, before registration in order to obtain a letter. Alternatively, he said, they could contact the assistant directors, Ronald Leach of Clydesdale Drive or Anthony Borresi of 631 West St.

FEB 12 1983

Mayor Smith says Blue Cross needs some competition

By Gerald B. O'Connor

Mayor Charles L. Smith says he believes the quasi-public Blue Cross/Blue Shield organization has become a virtual monopoly in the health insurance field, and that some healthy competition is necessary to keep insurance costs down.

Short of that, pressure on Blue Cross, doctors and hospitals to cut down on overlong stays in hospitals by beneficiaries should be brought to bear, he said.

But any clues to what the competition may be, outside of a health maintenance organization (HMO), aren't available yet, he said yesterday. He had expected to get some ideas on the subject at a conference in Cambridge Thursday, but found none, he said.

Disappointed

He had also expected something like a call to arms against Blue Cross/Blue Shield and its escalating health-insurance rates. Instead, he remarked, he and others who attended heard more about the city of Cambridge's health-insurance-cost woes than any such call.

"I thought we'd be asked to join in a fight against the rising Blue Cross rates," said the mayor. "But now I'm not really sure. I was also hoping to see an alternative to Blue Cross other than an HMO, but I didn't see that either.

"Frankly," he said, "I was a bit disappointed."

He and two members of the city's ad hoc Health Insurance Study Commission, Patricia Sanginetti and Robert Levesque, attended the Cambridge conference at the invitation of Cambridge City Manager Robert W. Healy. Mayors and selectmen from a number of cities and towns were invited.

One item on the conference agenda dealt, for example, with municipal pools as a means of to negotiate lower insurance premiums. "Maybe Mr. Healy'll follow up on this later," Smith said.

A member of a consulting firm, Consumer Health Advocates of Boston, retained by Cambridge to investigate insurance costs, contended at the conference his firm has found that as much as 40 percent of the costs of health care arise because patients are kept in hospitals longer than necessary, said the mayor.

"If that's so, it means Blue Cross isn't putting enough pressure on doctors and hospitals to keep hospital stays to a minimum down there," he said.

He said a portion of insurance premiums, as he understands it, is to monitor length of stay as part of health-care service in general.

Smith set up the study commission here last October because costs of health insurance have been rising sharply. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is the insurance carrier and its premiums this year will cost more than $2.5 million. Half of this, some $1.25 million, is borne by the city and the other half by city workers.

Although the city invites bids on insurance each year, Blue Cross was the only bidder for the present contract, leading to Smith's observation that "I have to believe they have become a monopoly."

He, Levesque, Mrs. Sanginetti and some others from the study commission toured facilities of an HMO, the Capital Area Community Health Plan in Latham, N.Y., a week ago to get information on its costs and services. What they found was that costs are significantly less for that service than for Blue Cross. But he and commission members, he indicated, would like to review some other options, if any. "What we need," he said, "are alternatives, but all I can see so far are HMOs."



Mark Mitchell

FORMER CHAMPION Willie Pep, left, and GE Tank Shop operation manager Bob Pollack, right, admire the Tom Corbett Man of the Year award presented yesterday to Frank Pia at the Tank Shop retirement party at the Polish Falcons Hall. Pep was the main speaker at the annual event.

FEB 14 1983

The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, Feb. 19, 1983—9

City prepares to sell extra land, buildings

Want four pieces of land across from Springside Park, two of them scraps and two of them potentially buildable lots? A fire-damaged one-time schoolhouse on about a quarter acre of land? A gem of a 140-year-old former one-room school schoolhouse on an attractive South Mountain Road lot?

The committee formed to dispose of surplus city property voted Thursday night to seek bids on each item in that assortment.

It also agreed to ask the Tabernacle Baptist Church, which had expressed interest in buying two of four condemned portable classrooms on the grounds of Stearns and Highland schools, whether it would be willing to pay $1,000 for the pair.

The portable classrooms were purchased in 1968 and closed in 1980 because the roofs could not support the weight of winter snow. The estimated cost of repair almost matched their $14,500 cost when brand-new, said acting Superintendent of Public Buildings Ronald Spring, and they could become a hazard to adventurous schoolchildren if they remain where they are.

Committee members joked that they would be willing to throw in the remaining pair of portables. When Spring was asked to recommend a price, he replied, "anything to get rid of them."

At the other end of the spectrum was the former Morewood School on South Mountain Road. It had been leased since 1978 by the Bureau for Exceptional Children, but the bureau notified the city it is terminating the lease.

"It has to be a very salable property," said Assessor Michael J. Quigley, citing its location and appearance. He suggested including a photograph in the bid advertisement and conducting an open house to allow potential bidders to inspect the interior.

Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr., chairman of the committee, asked that bids be sought on the Marine Corps League building, once Peck's School, "as a formality."

A city Department of Public Buildings employee, Donald Allard, had submitted an unsolicited offer of $3,000 on the condition that he be allowed to convert it into a two-family house.

The Disabled American Veterans earlier obtained the right to buy the building, but recently notified the committee that it was bowing out. The cost of repairing fire damage, Cheever said, apparently turned out to be more than they could handle. Two years ago, the city obtained a $52,000 estimate for the repairs.

The land parcels were originally part of Springside Park, but were cut off from the main body of the park when Springside Avenue was extended. Neighbors had urged the city to sell them, complaining that they had become unsightly and had become magnets for litter.

Bids were sought about a year ago, but the Department of Parks and Recreation rejected them as unrealistically low. The assessed value of the parcels is $2,400, $4,900, $5,700, and $7,100 while bids ranged from $300 to $850.

Quigley said those values had been set by United Appraisals, the company that performed Pittsfield's property revaluation two years ago. He called the two smaller parcels "virtually worthless." One, he said, is almost an acre in size and should be considered a valuable building lot.

Reilly is approved as city solicitor

FEB 23 1983

Edward M. Reilly, who was a law-student intern in the city solicitor's office little more than a year ago, was confirmed as city solicitor last night on a 10-1 vote of the City Council.

Reilly, who was appointed last week by Mayor Charles L. Smith, will succeed P. Keyburn Hollister, whose resignation takes effect March 1. Ms. Hollister resigned after almost four years in the part-time post to devote full time to her private practice.

Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr. cast the negative vote. "I am not trying to defame Mr. Reilly in any way," he said, but "I would prefer the city's lawyer to be an attorney of some establishment or note."

But Ward 2 Councilor Kenneth G. Warren Jr., expressing the majority view, called Reilly "well-qualified."

He said that as chairman of the Ordinances and Rules Committee, he has worked closely with Reilly. He said that he has found him knowledgeable and that his work both as intern and as contract manager for the Office of Community and Economic Development has given him a strong base of experience in municipal law.

Reilly, who graduated cum laude from the Western New England College law school last spring and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar last month, was named to the OCED post in October. Community Development Commissioner William J. Angelo told the Council that he will move the other attorney in the OCED office, commercial development manager Laura Rilla, to the contract manager's slot and seek a new commercial development manager.



Susan Plageman

Edward M. Reilly

The Council voted unanimously to accept Ms. Hollister's resignation with regret and to send her a letter of thanks for her service to the city.

After the vote that clinched Reilly's appointment and the applause that followed, Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi called out cheerfully to Reilly, who was in the audience, "I hope you'll like working 10-hour days. And nights, too."

MAR 3 1983

City aid may offset tax loss

By A.A. Michelson

Pittsfield stands a chance of recouping in new state aid about 80 percent of the tax loss called for next year by Proposition 2½, but it will still have to lay off employees, according to City Auditor Nicholas M. Sarro.

In his $7.6 billion budget, which was presented to the Legislature yesterday, Gov. Michael S. Dukakis included an additional $151 million in state aid to cities and towns. He told legislators that a disproportionate share of the aid would go to 11 cities, including Pittsfield, which are facing a third round of tax losses dictated by Proposition 2½.

Overall, the 11 cities will have to cut taxes by $92 million. The governor's chief fiscal aide, Frank J. Keefe, secretary for administration and finance, said the administration is hoping that about $72 million of the aid can be directed to those hard-hit cities.

Under Proposition 2½, communi-

Pittsfield may recoup
Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

ties may not tax at more than 2.5 percent of local valuation. In the first two years of its implementation, Pittsfield has had to cut property taxes by about $8.3 million. In the coming year it will have to come up with more cuts of about $3.3 million. The state eased the impact of the first two years' cuts with additional aid of about $6 million. The question now is how much of the final $3.3 million in cuts the state will come up with in the coming fiscal year.

If the state does deliver 80 percent of the aid to the beleaguered 11 cities, Pittsfield can expect an additional $2.6 million.

"But this would still mean," Sarro said, "a loss of about $700,000 in property tax revenue and that could mean the dropping of more teachers, firemen and policemen."

Sarro added, however, that these figures could be changed if Pittsfield comes in this year with increased valuation, which would allow for more property tax revenue under Proposition 2½.

Just what the extra $151 million in state aid will mean to each city and town won't be known until about the first of April, the governor told legislators yesterday.

He said his staff is trying to come up with a distribution formula that will eliminate some of the inequities of the distributions of fiscal 1981 and 1982. In the first year, some communities actually made money as a result of Proposition 2½. Under the formula, they received two or three times more than they lost under the proposition, while other communities received only a small fraction of their losses. Pittsfield in the first year got back only 38 percent of its losses, but recouped last year when a new formula was adopted that better reflected community needs.

Rep. Robert Frank Jakubowicz, D-Pittsfield, said yesterday that he will try to learn from Pittsfield how much new state aid it needs and then relay that report to the governor's experts on state-local fiscal relations.

MAR 9 1983

Remodeled city govt. proposed

By Judy Katz

Management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget recommended changes last night that, if implemented, would totally alter the face of city government, cut 115 workers from the city payroll and save an estimated $2.1 million a year — more than twice the savings the Washington, D.C., firm predicted it would find before it began its $96,000 study of city government last October.

The savings, Cresap, McCormick & Paget Vice President William G. Evans told the City Council, can be achieved without eliminating or substantially reducing any service the city now provides.

At the end of the hour-long presentation, At-large Councilor Joseph W. Ryan remarked that while he does not agree with all the firm's proposals, "that could have been the most productive hour I've ever spent on the City Council."

A large number of department heads, clerical workers, police and firefighters who had waited months to learn whether the consultants would recommend away their jobs waited through 2½ hours of prior City Council business in the Council chamber to find out.

The jobs targeted for elimination include 41 in the Fire Department — 11 more than would be lost under the mayor's preliminary fiscal 1983-1984 budget allowance for the department — 28 in the Department of Public Works, 13 in the Police Department, 11.5 in the Health Department, six in the Berkshire Athenaeum, five in Public Buildings, five in Parks and Recreation, one in Veterans Services, three in administrative and financial offices and two inspectors.

Major organizational changes would reduce the number of offices reporting to the mayor from 22 to 14, eliminate some present departments and create some new ones. One, a Department of Public Utilities, would take over the water, sewer and drain and sewage treatment plant divisions of the present Department of Public Works.

A new Department of Finance and Administration, under an upgraded city auditor, would absorb the present Department of Administrative Services, the tax collector's, treasurer's and assessor's offices and the license and permit-issuing functions of the Licensing Board and city clerk.

The elected city clerk's position would become part-time.

Ted P. Becker, a member of the consultant's study team, explained the recommendations department by department.

Contrary to earlier speculation, the consultants did not recommend closing any fire stations. They did recommend putting the Central Fire Station pumper and one ladder truck on unstaffed reserve status; the number of building fires in Pittsfield averages less than one a day, and "the vehicles make very few runs," Becker said.

Rather than cutting the number of firefighters or trucks that respond to a building fire, the consultants recommended sending 11 firefighters instead of 10 and sending an extra pumper to make up for the reduction from four to two that they recommend in staffing the rescue squad detail.

Becker recommended eliminating fire alarm boxes. They were needed in the days before telephone service but now account for a good proportion of the 15 percent of fire calls that turn out to be false alarms.

That will permit elimination of the five-man maintenance division. Three could be laid off and two transferred to traffic signal maintenance, which would be returned to the Department of Public Works.

The entire five-member fire communications unit could be eliminated, he said, because its work load is low enough to be absorbed by the police dispatch system.

The consultants called for drastic shifts in the Department of Public Works that Becker said could save more than $300,000 a year. Road work and salt and sand production should be contracted out, Becker said. "It costs the city three times as much to make sand as it would to buy it and have it delivered."

DPW's garage and forestry divisions, Becker said, should be assigned to a new Department of Maintenance, the successor to the Department of Public Buildings.

The new department would also take over park maintenance, ending what Evans had described as a "fragmenting" of maintenance functions.

Major savings — about $161,000 — could be achieved, he said, by eliminating the school nurses and health aides, closing the Health Department laboratory and contracting out the relatively few tests necessary to maintain public health. Nurses could be hired as needed to assist doctors during annual school exams, Becker said. He said the laboratory now "offers many services we consider unnecessary."

The housing code inspector should be eliminated, Becker said. His duties could be taken over by the building inspector. The consultants also advised cutting the number of wire inspectors from two to one and putting all inspectors — plumbing, building and wire — under the Fire Department.

While the consultants recommended that the Police Department continue to operate the ambulance, they called for a change in method. Instead of picking up beat patrolmen on North Street, Becker said, the ambulance should go directly to the scene of the call to be joined by the nearest patrol car.

To increase police visibility, the consultants proposed that every uniformed officer be given a police car to take home each day "and be encouraged to use it."

The net cost per year, since the cars would last longer than under the present system, Becker said, would be $20,000.

Whistle blowers encouraged by visiting inspector general

By A.A. Michelson

Joseph R. Barresi, who has been the state's first and only inspector general during the past year, spent the day in Pittsfield yesterday encouraging people to "blow the whistle" whenever they spy irregularities in government.

His mission also was to impress on municipal officials that the provisions of the Omnibus Construction Reform Act of 1980, which is to control fraud, waste or abuse in public contracts, are "not overwhelming."

"There is, of course, added paperwork," he said in an interview at The Eagle yesterday afternoon, "but whatever it amounts to, it is worth the open, accountable process that it produces."

The reform act came in the wake of a year of hearings before the Ward Commission, which was established in 1978 to investigate fraud and corruption in the awarding of state and county contracts. The immediate incident that prompted the investigation was the conviction the year before of two members of the state Senate for conspiring with a firm that held contracts in the construction of the University of Massachusetts campus in Boston.

Part of the reform act was supposed to go into effect in July 1981 and another part in January 1982. But because of differences among those who were to name an inspector general, nothing happened. The law provided that the governor, the attorney general and the state auditor had to be unanimous in the election of an inspector. As it developed, each offered his own nominee and they were never close to unanimity.

Public pressure prompted the Legislature to change the law so that an inspector general could be named by two of three nominators. Barresi, who had not been a candidate in the first round, submitted his resume and prevailed as a compromise candidate.

He has put together a staff of 30, including lawyers, engineers, accountants and special investigators.

Delays property sales

He has stopped the sale of surplus public property on several occasions because, in his view, the required "open, accountable process" was not employed.

He held up the sale to developers of land in Falmouth by the state Department of Transportation and of the Boston State Hospital, in both cases because he judged the process should be more public and deliberate.

Since December, when Barresi was given the power to subpoena records and witnesses, he has developed five cases, on the basis of testimony from the subpoenas, that are being turned over to the attorney general. Under the law, he cannot discuss cases that are in the criminal trial stage.

"Much of what we have accomplished," Barresi said, "has come from calls we have received from people who have perceived wrongdoing. I would like to encourage even more such whistle blowing and provide some kind of protection to informers."

Speaking to about 25 city officials yesterday morning, he said one of his tasks is to overcome public cynicism about government.

"This office will carry out the mandates of the law no matter where the trail leads," he said.

If taxpayers, including public employees, "see waste, abuse or potential fraud and don't tell us, they're wasting their money," he added.

Barresi said in his Eagle interview that he has been told that Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is going to file legislation that will protect "whistle blowers" from retribution. He said there is nothing in the law that protects someone who reports irregularities to law-enforcement authorities against retribution from their bosses.

He said that sometimes deals are consummated so quickly that he can't catch up to them. A case in point was the sale late last year, by legislative act, of the state's Commonwealth Armory — a huge facility on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston that used to house several National Guard units — to Boston University.

"I have nothing against BU," he said. "In fact, I have two degrees from it. But it looked like too much of an arrangement. I urged Governor [Edward J.] King not to sign [the bill authorizing the sale], but he didn't take my advice."

Generally, Barresi said, the great value in the reform act is in its potential to prevent crime rather than prosecute it.

"After all," he said, "we're dealing largely with white-collar crime, which is extremely difficult to control. You're involved often in two corporations conspiring with public officials to gyp the public.

"It would be much better for everyone concerned if by making state, county and local employees acquainted with the reform act, we could prevent that kind of crime."

MAR 10 1983

Doyle gives testimony in high-voltage shock case

MAR 10 1983

City officials and employees of the Western Mass. Electric Co. were aware of hazardous conditions at the city landfill before a former trash hauler and his grandson were seriously injured there, Public Works Commissioner Gerald S. Doyle told a Superior Court jury yesterday.

Michael Sciola, 58, and his grandson Michael Rathbun, 21, are each suing the city for $2 million and WMEC for another $2 million as a result of injuries they sustained June 2, 1977, at the dump. The two men were jolted by 23,000 volts of electricity when Sciola raised the compactor, hitting a high-voltage line. As a result of the accident, Sciola lost fingers on both hands and his left leg below the knee. Rathbun lost his right arm.

The lawsuit alleges that negligence by city employees and the electric company caused the accident.

Doyle testified during the second and third days of the trial, which began with jury selection on Monday.

According to Doyle, the city knew of the danger posed by the overhead wires, containing 115,000 volts, that run north and south across Downing Industrial Park. He said that prior to the accident, he had received a letter from WMEC about a broken overhead wire and that he was concerned that as the landfill process built up the ground level, the tops of the trucks were closer to the wires.

After he received the letter, he said he went out to check the 115,000-volt lines but did not look under the east-west, 23,000-volt lines because, he said, he was "not concerned" with them at the time.

Under direct examination by Sciola's lawyer, Ralph Cianflone Jr., Doyle said he notified both Vincent J. Hebert, Park Department superintendent, and Anthony J. Meledeo, now retired as head of the sanitation department, of the situation, "but they didn't tell me to stop filling."

No records were kept of the height of the land, he said, and decisions to move the dump site were made by Meledeo. After 7 or 8 feet of garbage, topped by a foot of dirt, is compacted, Doyle said, it makes a lift of 2 to 3 feet.

The phase wire the truck touched was 18 feet, 7 inches, off the ground, according to Pittsfield Police investigator William H. Mason, compared to 15 feet, 9 inches, for the overhead wire that broke and prompted the WMEC letter.

Responding to questions put to him by Rathbun's lawyer, Andrew T. Campoli, Mason said the force of the voltage blew out all but two of the truck's six tires. From the ground to the burn mark on the truck, Mason said, it was 18 feet, 3 inches. This measurement was probably taken when the tires were flat, he added.

Among other witnesses yesterday was Alfred Pettibone, a retired employee at the dump, who said that no warning was given to the two men about the wires.

3/12/83



Mark Mitchell

Digging out

A resident of Concord Parkway takes arms against the weekend's snowfall, which deposited an official total of 6.3 inches in Pittsfield. Weather story appears on Page 11.

Copies of govt. study arrive; special meeting to be scheduled

By Judy Katz

City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi said he will schedule a special Council meeting next week on the inch-thick Cresap, McCormick & Paget city government management study which was delivered yesterday.

The document was still at the printer when representatives of the Washington, D.C., consulting firm that performed the five-month study summarized their conclusions at the March 8 Council meeting.

Copies have now been distributed. Stracuzzi asked councilors to study it so they can put whatever questions they may have to Cresap, McCormick & Paget representatives next week.

The consultants estimated that implementing their recommendations, which would eliminate 115 city jobs, would bring net savings of $2.1 million a year.

At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos objected to Stracuzzi's plan for a special meeting to discuss questions raised by the report with the consultants and the mayor.

He called instead for asking Mayor Charles L. Smith to submit the recommendations, one section at a time, at each regular Council meeting and invite the affected department head to attend. That, he said, would be the orderly way to proceed.

At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey suggested that "the orderly way" would be to require councilors who disagree with a specific recommendation to submit their reasons and backup material in writing.

MAR 15 1983

Stracuzzi picked up on the suggestion, saying he hopes councilors will follow that procedure. He also said he expects some recommendations can be implemented by consensus of the Council and the mayor.

In addition to their recommendations for delivering about the same level of city services for $2.1 million less, the consultants reported that better cash management could bring the city about $50,000 extra revenue each year.

For instance, they said, the city now maintains nine checking accounts in Boston banks that do not earn any interest. The total amount in those accounts totaled about $250,000, they said, while another $430,000 was in local checking accounts that draw no interest and about $280,000 was in local accounts that pay only the basic passbook savings interest rate of 5¼ percent.

One reason for the hefty checking account balances, the consultants said, is that money is shifted into them earlier than is necessary to cover checks issued. For instance, enough money to cover the entire payroll is shifted into a checking account each Friday, they reported, "even though a large number of payroll checks do not clear for several days."

Checks are issued twice a week to pay bills, Cresap, McCormick & Paget reported. "Issuing checks this frequently tends to increase workload, leads to earlier cash transfers than would be necessary with less frequent payments and causes a loss of interest income," the report states.

The consultants also advised seeking bids for the city's checking and short-term savings accounts rather than "using the three major banks in Pittsfield on a rotating basis."

"Although all city revenues, totaling $35 million in fiscal 1982, passed through the local savings accounts before being transferred to long-term investment or checking accounts," the report states, "the city receives only 5¼ percent annual compound interest on its local passbook savings accounts."

Smith cautions schools against funding optimism

MAR 16 1983

By Judy Katz

Public education advocates who hope the Cresap, McCormick & Paget report will provide a $2.1 million windfall to save the schools are in for a disappointment, Mayor Charles L. Smith said yesterday.

First, he said, not all the Washington, D.C., consulting firm's money-saving tips will be adopted. Second, savings from some recommended changes — such as contracting out street paving — would not be seen until later in the year. And third, since Proposition 2½ requires him to slice more than $1 million from the city side of the budget in any case, even moving the entire report from paper to practice with one wave of a magic wand would not free up $2.1 million.

"The School Department thinks I'll have $2.1 million in my hands that I can turn around and hand to them," he complained.

The consultants used the current year's budget figures as the basis for their estimate that streamlining operations so that services can be provided by 115 fewer workers would save $2.1 million a year. "They couldn't use next year's budget. No one knew what it was yet," the mayor said.

Expected job cuts

City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro, Smith recalled, estimated the city would have to cut 82.5 jobs from the budget — excluding school personnel — to bring spending within the limits of Proposition 2½.

That projection is based on last year's total property valuations and is therefore almost certain to be too gloomy. The assessors are revaluing property now to comply with state law. The result is expected to be an increase in values that will substantially hike the amount Pittsfield can raise through property taxes without overstepping the bounds of the proposition.

"There will be cuts anyway," the mayor said. "The question is whether I prefer [the consultants'] way of cutting it or my way."

The answer, Smith clearly indicated, is that he prefers the consultants' way. He said that he believes all recommendations in the Cresap report could be put in place by the July 1 start of the next fiscal year and that he will begin to make changes in his planned budget to incorporate many of them.

But first, he said, he wants to give all the department heads their say. He said copies of the Cresap report have been distributed to the heads of departments and city unions.

The City Council plans to hold a meeting to discuss the report with the mayor and the consultants next week. Smith said that should be followed by a public meeting to serve as a forum for the department heads.

He agreed that the theme of such a session would probably be "leave things as they are." But, he added, "I think I would be as remiss as hell not to get their input."

Expects cooperation

Smith said his next step will be to work with each department head to revise the budgets, and he expects them to cooperate. "I look at each department head as I look at myself as mayor," he said. "I wasn't too happy with Proposition 2½ to begin with because it means laying off people and cuttinng programs. But I'm here to do a job, I have so much money to do it with and I'm going to do it. I think department heads would look at it the same way."

Department heads "may squawk and gripe and feel bad about it — it's not easy to tell people they're not going to have a job," he said.

It is likely to be particularly difficult in this case, since some of the jobs slated for elimination in the Cresap report belong to department heads — such as the superintendent of parks and recreation, a position now held by Vincent J. Hebert — or their immediate subordinates, such as the administrative deputy fire chief in the Fire Department or the housing code inspector and the bacteriologist (who is also the wife of Health Commissioner Louis A. Bolduc) in the Health Department.

In other cases, reorganization amounts to demotion. The Cresap report recommends putting the building, wire and plumbing inspectors, who now work autonomously, into the Fire Department's inspection division under the supervision of the division head.

Smith said he expects to make some "adjustments" in the recommendations both before and after implementation. "I'm not saying everything [recommended] is going to work," he said.

Stracuzzi proposes time limit on terms of retirement board

By Judy Katz

To encourage "fresh thinking" on the Pittsfield Retirement Board, City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi has proposed that the board limit the length of time any member can serve.

Stracuzzi will ask the City Council to endorse the suggestion tomorrow night.

"I don't mean to imply that the present board isn't doing the job," Stracuzzi said, "but I do think [a limitation] will prevent any entrenched way of thinking and give people with other philosophies a chance to get involved."

Stracuzzi said he is disturbed by a January 2-1 board decision to grant job-related disability retirement to a deputy fire chief even though two three-doctor medical panels reported, after examining the man, that he was ineligible under the law.

State Commissioner of Public Employee Retirement John J. McGlynn sent the case back to the board for reconsideration early this month. He ruled that the board's action was not supported by substantial evidence and violated the legal requirement that the majority of doctors on a medical panel certify the applicant's disability.

The retirement board is made up of three members selected to represent different points of view. One, appointed by the mayor, is traditionally the city auditor, Stracuzzi said. The second is elected by city workers. Both have an equal voice in choosing the third, a representative of the general public without direct ties either to the administration or the employees.

Stracuzzi said he believes the present members, City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro, firefighters' union head Gerard E. Miller and businessman Joseph Cadorette, may have served since Sarro was named city auditor in 1976.

He suggested that limiting membership to two years, or perhaps four, could be done while maintaining continuity if terms were staggered.

The Council's disability pension study committee, he said, reported that most of the problems that beset the disability pension system have their source in state law. But, he said, "judgment is involved, and the judgment lies with the local boards."

MAR 21 1983

MAR 22 1983

Consultant grilled

Council queries show doubts about some economies

By Judy Katz

Questions and comments at last night's special City Council session suggest that if answering the knock of a "savings opportunity" means consenting to radical surgery on the Fire and Public Works departments, several councilors are reluctant to open the door.

"Savings opportunities" is consultant Cresap, McCormick & Paget's term for new ways of handling city business that, the firm estimates, can save about $2.1 million a year without significant cuts in services. The Fire and Public Works departments together afford more than half those opportunities.

Councilors poured out their fears and doubts about the Washington, D.C., firm's fire and public works recommendations for about two hours during last night's marathon discussion of the Cresap report.

Responding was William G. Evans, vice president of Cresap, McCormick & Paget. He stood at the lectern in front of the Council, his back to a chamberful of spectators — most of them department heads, firefighters and other city workers.

The voices last night were those of the councilors, but many of the questions were those department heads or their subordinates had been asking privately since the report came out a week ago.

Ask about effects

Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton and Ward 1 Councilor John R. O'Gara asked whether cutting 41 jobs out of the Fire Department would impair the department's rating, raise fire insurance costs or increase fire losses.

Evans replied that he does not believe it would affect insurance rates. Insurance bureaus rate fire departments, he said, but "there is a general misunderstanding about the impact."

Insurance rates are usually the same for cities whose departments fall into the top six of 10 possible classes, he said. The bottom three classes apply mainly to rural areas without water systems or organized fire departments.

Insurance rates are based on losses, he said, and his firm does not believe the changes it recommends would increase losses. "Based on your history and the incidence of fires," he assured them, "Pittsfield would have better protection than many cities this size" if the Cresap plan were followed.

The firm's call for eliminating fire alarm boxes also drew resistance. Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia R. Betters called master fire boxes in elderly housing projects "the only lifeline" for residents, and At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos worried that a telephone might not be available in rural areas to report a fire.

Master boxes could be kept wherever the city decided they were warranted, but they should be wired to a commercial alarm company, Evans said. Street boxes are the main target of the report, he said, since they produce the bulk of false alarms.

The firm found only four recorded cases in which an actual fire was reported through an alarm box. But in each case, Evans said, the fire was also reported by telephone.

"Look at the probabilities," he said. "It is more likely that you can find a phone than a box. There are a lot more telephones in Pittsfield than boxes."

Mrs. Betters demanded to know why the firm recommended cutting the size of the rescue squad crew from four to two.

"To reduce costs," Evans replied. "We had the notion, when you asked us to study city governmment, that you had a pressing need to reduce costs due to Proposition 2½."

Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr. argued that laying off firefighters would be a financial wash because of the unemployment and pension benefits the city must pay.

"If you don't make layoffs," Evans said, "you will be paying that million dollars year after year after year. More, because of inflation."

But, he added, many cities his firm has studied have implemented recommendations that cut jobs entirely through attrition.

Incredulous

When the topic turned to the Department of Public Works, several councilors expressed incredulity about the Cresap report conclusion that the city could save by contracting out street paving and buying rather than making sand.

Evans agreed to provide them with detailed figures. When Stockton said he could not accept Evans's contention that services could be maintained while cutting 28 jobs, Evans asked for — and received — permission for a discourse on productivity.

Labor is the main component of the cost of providing services, he said. The key to increasing productivity in the absence of technological advances is scheduling.

The idea, he said, is "to have labor there when it is needed and not there when it is not needed." His firm seeks ways to use people to better advantage, he said.

Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi set clear ground rules barring anyone but councilors from speaking during the session. He distributed the schedule of a series of meetings in April at which department heads will be able to give their views. But during a discussion of the Cresap recommendation to cut the street line-painting crew from three to two, Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle called out from his seat that state law requires the painting machine to be preceded by a truck with lights and followed by another. "That's two," he said, "and" — if both crew members are driving trucks — "there's no painting machine between them."

The meetings for department heads begin April 5, after Mayor Charles L. Smith returns from a 10-day vacation in Arizona, which begins tomorrow.

Stracuzzi scheduled three that week, on the 5th, 6th, and 7th. A fourth is set for April 13, with a final session — again, with Evans on hand — on April 14.

Stracuzzi asked all department heads, city workers, boards and commissions to put their comments in writing to be forwarded to the consultants for consideration.

Council votes to have Cresap make study of School Dept.

MAR 23 1983

By Debra DiMassimo

Despite a mixed report card, the City Council gave a passing grade last night to a proposal to hire consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget to begin a study of the School Department immediately at a cost of up to $60,000.

On a 6-4 vote, the Council approved a motion by Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi to commission the Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm to begin the School Department study April 4. It is due to be completed June 15, in time for the Council to review the recommendations before making its final decision on the budget.

Cresap last week unveiled a $96,000 study of city government, exclusive of the School Department.

Stracuzzi, who turned over his gavel to Vice President Joseph W. Ryan in order to make the motion, said that he was impressed by Cresap's work so far and that a study of the School Department "could be a management tool to help us, as well as the School Committee and School Department, make the cuts mandated by Proposition 2½."

Saying he has three children, one of whom is enrolled in the school system, Stracuzzi added, "My interest is in getting the best education for the fairest price."

The hiring of Cresap had the backing of Mayor Charles L. Smith, School Committee Chairman George Desnoyers and Superintendent John C. Davis. However, Desnoyers and Davis recommended waiting until November to begin the study.

"November would be the best time," Desnoyers said last night. "They [the consultants] originally said the study would take three or four months . . . They're cutting the time in half."

Desnoyers mentioned the April 15 and May 1 deadlines for notifying non-tenured and tenured teachers, respectively, that they are being laid off and the possibility that two schools would be closed and that Crosby Middle School would be converted to an elementary school, requiring considerable redistricting.

"They will be studying an organization that quite possibly won't be in existence," he said.

At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos, who had already expressed those sentiments, opposed giving Cresap the contract at all. "I don't think we should reward Cresap with another contract in view of the mistakes they made in the city government report," Arlos said. "They weren't even familiar with the city charter."

He also contended that the School Department is headed by professionals who are best qualified to make the needed cuts and that the $60,000 price tag was "outrageous."

Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr., the only other councilor to speak against the proposed study, argued that the money would be better spent in retaining jobs. "Who's better qualified to [cut the budget] than the professionals at hand?" he asked.

Ward 2 Councilor Kenneth G. Warren Jr. countered that the School Committee, superintendent and mayor had already agreed that a study is needed and that the superintendent had interviewed Cresap's educational consultant and found him to be qualified.

"I have no doubt we've got the finest school system in the state of Massachusetts, and it's competently run," Warren declared, "but let's have a disinterested third party tell us it's competently run. And we have to do it by the same yardstick" as the city government study.

Smith stressed that to be fair to everyone in the city, the School Department should undergo the same scrutiny as city government.

If the City Council suspected that putting the Cresap recommendations into effect before the beginning of the school year would be detrimental, Smith continued, "you could vote not to implement them until next year. It's no big deal."

Similar views were expressed by Ward 4 Councilor Mary Ellen Ausman and Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr., who both said costs would be rising continuously and that the study could point out ways to save money.

"This may offer opportunities to make [the budget cuts] less severe," Cheever said. "We could save 10, 15 or 20 teaching jobs."

Voting in favor of the study were Stracuzzi, Warren, Cheever, Mrs. Ausman, At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey and Ward 1 Councilor John R. O'Gara. Negative votes were cast by Arlos, Chichetto, Ryan and Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton Jr. Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters was absent because of an illness in her family.

After the vote, Stracuzzi said he would ask the Council at a special meeting tomorrow night to approve the $60,000 appropriation for the study.

MAR 26 1983

Court ruling complicates town layoffs

BOSTON (UPI) — Public employee unions and municipal officials are looking closely at a state Supreme Judicial Court ruling that layoffs of city and school employees must be the subject of collective bargaining negotiations.

The state high court Thursday unanimously upheld a state Labor Relations Commission ruling that said the Newton School Committee violated the state public employees' collective bargaining law when it failed to hold discussions with a union before laying off seven custodians in 1976.

"We're still studying the opinion to see if this is going to have general applicability. Under Proposition 2½ some communities are still faced with making additional layoffs," said Daniel Sawyer, spokesman for the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

The state supreme court said the Newton School Committee should have bargained with the Public School Custodians Association about possible alternatives to layoffs as a way to reduce the school payroll.

First occasion

Justice Herbert Wilkins, who wrote the ruling, said it was the first time the Massachusetts high court has ruled on "whether a subject is not only a proper subject for collective bargaining, but is also a subject on which collective bargaining is required."

The ruling said, "We hold that the school committee's decision to achieve a reduction in force by layoffs is a mandatory subject of bargaining."

Diane Drapeau, lawyer for the labor commission, said the decision could have "a major impact on every public employee in the state."

The decision, Ms. Drapeau said, applies not only to school workers and teachers, "but to police, fire, public works and all other categories of employees in cities and towns."

* * * *

RUGBY: The Berkshire Rugby Football Club will open its 1983 spring season this afternoon by visiting the Danbury (Conn.) Rugby Club in a 1 p.m. game at Danbury High School.

The Berkshire club's home opener is scheduled for April 9 at Sackett Brook Park against Colgate University. The local team practices Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at Sackett Brook, and anyone interested in playing is welcome to attend, according to club president Tony King of Pittsfield.

* * * *

March 26, 1983

The Cresap report

MAR 28 1983

Fire Dept. lauded, cut in local government study

This is the first in a series of six stories on the major recommendations in the Pittsfield government reorganization study done by the Washington, D.C., firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget. The other five reports will be carried on inside pages each day this week.

By Judy Katz

Of all 22 city bureaus scrutinized by Cresap, McCormick & Paget, only the Fire Department is specifically identified in the consultants' report as competent and well-managed.

The consultants say that right off the bat. Then, in the manner of ancient priests who select the unblemished heifer for the sacrifice, they recommend slicing 41 jobs and $934,000 from the fire budget. That amounts to about 45 percent of the $2.1 million annual savings Cresap, McCormick & Paget claim could be achieved by accepting their entire menu of recommendations for streamlining city government.

The department now has a complement of 127, plus 12 civilians.

The consultants take $34,000 off the top by eliminating the job of deputy chief for administration. His job is parceled out to the remaining four deputies and the captain who heads the fire prevention division.

But the bulk of the burden falls upon the men who hold the hoses and take the calls.

By changing the way equipment is used, Cresap, McCormick & Paget say the department can eliminate 32 firefighters without sending any fewer to blazes and without getting them there enough later so you would notice.

They propose taking the pumper at the Central Fire Station and the ladder truck at the station on Peck's Road out of service. That would leave Peck's Road with just a pumper manned and ready to go and the central station with a ladder truck and the rescue squad.

Well, not THE rescue squad. A

Fire Dept. cuts
Continued on Page 13



Joel Librizzi

MOTHBALL PROPOSAL is made in the Cresap report for this pumper at the Central Fire Station and the ladder truck at the station on Peck's Road. Cresap also recommends cutting 41 Fire Department jobs.

Fire Dept. cuts suggested

Continued from Page 1

trimmer version, staffed by two men instead of four.

Since every piece of equipment that is staffed is staffed round-the-clock with backup to cover vacations, days off and sickness, subtracting three (a pumper crew) plus two (a ladder crew) plus two (half the rescue crew) lightens the department by 32 firefighters and about $756,000 a year.

Fewer vehicles

Cresap, McCormick & Paget say the city can manage with fewer service-ready fire vehicles because more than one alarm rarely sounds during any one hour. Multiple alarms come that close together only 5 percent of the time and the department averages 1.7 emergency runs per day.

When an alarm sounds, pumpers would converge from the two nearest stations to meet the ladder truck, rescue squad, and the deputy chief and his driver from the central station. "When a major working fire is found," the report suggests, "a pumper from another station should be transferred to the central station temporarily to increase coverage of the city during the fire response."

The consultants want the number of fire inspectors cut from three to two, and they want those two on the road and out of the office for all but one hour of the day.

But under the Cresap plan, the fire inspection captain will have more people, not fewer, to supervise. The now-autonomous city building, wiring, plumbing and gas inspectors would come under his wing along with the sealer of weights and measures.

Cresap, McCormick & Paget estimate the city could save $37,000 by ripping out fire alarm boxes. Some $68,000 a year would be saved by eliminating the three workers who maintain the boxes. But that would be partly offset by lost fees now charged for commercial and institutional master boxes.

Ma Bell made fire alarm boxes obsolete, according to the consultants. Some 85 percent of box alarms are false, they reported — some turned in deliberately, some by accident, and some by malfunctioning equipment. Four percent of all fires were reported through alarm boxes in 1981, they said. But each of those was reported by telephone as well.

The consultants made a total sweep of the four-member fire communications center staff, calling the center "an unnecessary duplication."

Having the Police Department's six-dispatcher communications center take fire calls would increase its workload a manageable 10 percent, they conclude, and save $84,000 a year.

MAR 28 1983

Throwing money away

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I am disgusted with the way city officials throw our money around. The most recent example of it is the Cresap report costing $96,000.

I remember that awhile back the city was given a voluminous report written by the then chairman of the School Buildings Needs Commission, Anne Wojtkowski. That report is still being used today, and it cost the city nothing. Don't we have people like her around anymore who can give us such high quality work at such low cost?

DANIEL J. HEALY
66 Circular Ave.
Pittsfield

Laurel Lake case

MAR 29 1983

common/ play ground

45 in protest of SJC decision

By Priscilla Painton

Shouting "We want justice!" about 45 people called for the punishment of the Lenox 7 yesterday in a protest that began at 2 p.m. and did not wane until dusk.

Bearing cardboard signs that read "Justice for all?", "Do you know where your children are? The Lenox 7 are loose!" or "What's wrong with our system?" the protesters, mostly of college and high-school age, traced a muddy circle in the fresh snow as they marched for three hours on the Common on First Street.

The demonstration was organized by the families of the Laurel Lake drowning victims and their friends in the wake of a Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) decision that vacated manslaughter convictions against seven Lenox youths. The Lenox youths had been found guilty two years ago of involuntary manslaughter for the drowning deaths of Barry Griffin and Richard Retzel, both of Lee. The youths were sentenced to 2½ years to the Berkshire County House of Correction, but remained free pending the outcome of an appeal.

Reached at home after the rally, Richard Retzel, father of one of the victims, expressed some disappointment at the number of people who showed up. "I expected more to be there," he said. The rain, the afternoon hour and the weekday may have been reasons why some people could not come, he said.

5 TV stations

The protest turned quickly into a media event as five television crews and a half-dozen reporters or still photographers descended on the Common at 2 p.m. to interview or photograph anyone who seemed willing to talk.

Eager to vent his anger at the SJC decision was the father of victim Barry Griffin who, with three of Barry's brothers, drove 30 hours from Houston, Texas, to join in the rally. The father, who is also named Barry, spoke indefatigably to the press clustered at the center of the circling marchers.

Griffin said he braved rain, sleet and snow in traveling from 2 a.m. Saturday to 3:30 p.m. Sunday. "I hope I brought trouble with me," he said, referring to the inclement weather. "I want the bad to come out of me that's inside of me."

Griffin repeated allegations he first made two years ago when the Superior Court jury returned a guilty verdict: He claimed that the truth about what happened at the Laurel Lake boat ramp in the early morning of June 5 had been "covered up."

"I have heard stories and I intend to pursue those stories," he said. Asked who was responsible for masking the facts, he said, "That's what I don't know yet." But he vowed that the Laurel Lake case "will never die down until the truth is known."

DA's assignment questioned

One of the questions that still nags at him, he said, was "Where was [District Attorney] Anthony Ruberto? Where was the top guy? Why did [First Assistant District Attorney] Daniel A. Ford end up with the case?"

Retzel said he had "smoked down the road" from Suffolk Downs, where he had delivered hay in the morning, to be in Pittsfield by 3 p.m. "I want people to know that these two boys did not die in vain," he said, echoing the sentiment of protesters around him. "They didn't commit suicide. Somebody was responsible."

Kenneth Retzel, 15, and Charles Griffin, 14, led the march, carrying a colorful vinyl banner with the portraits of their respective late brothers and the question, "Justice for all?" Betty Rood of Dalton urged about 25 spectators standing idly across First Street to pick up one of the ready-made signs and join the procession.

"I can't see any reason why they're standing there. Why don't they come and help us out?" she asked a reporter.

Asked why she appeared so bitter about the outcome of the Laurel Lake case, she said, "I went to the wake and the funeral. If you had, you'd be marching with us."

Served 11½ months

Another strident participant was a man who identified himself as Chico Clark of Pittsfield, and said he had served 11½ months at the Berkshire County House of Correction for violating a probation term on a charge of receiving stolen goods. He claimed to have been one of the inmates who skipped meals at the jail two years ago to protest Judge William W. Simons's alleged leniency with the seven defendants. The inmates objected to the "light" sentence and to a stay of execution that allowed the seven boys to be home over Christmas.

"I did a crime, got caught and did time," Clark said. "I had been better off to kill somebody."

The rally was also an occasion for the Retzels and Griffins to collect more signatures in a drive they hope will move the SJC to revise its ruling. Barbara Holmes, mother of the Barry Griffin, said petitions circulated since last week, which ask people to agree that "the Lenox 7 should be punished for the deaths of Barry Griffin and Richard Retzel," had garnered at least 6,000 to 7,000 signatures. The families of the victims intend to send the petitions to SJC and to Simons.

To petition Simons

The seven youths still face possible sentences for assault and battery charges that Simons filed two years ago. The SJC left standing those convictions. Mrs. Retzel said the petitions will be sent to Simons in an attempt to influence his possible action on the assault and battery cases.

An hour into the protest, the group broke into a single line that filed along the iron railing on First Street. Some interrupted their marching to leap onto the railing and incite passing motorists to endorse the Retzel-Griffin cause by honking their horns. Many drivers did, arousing cheers from the demonstrators.

"All you can do is scream and holler and hope they will hear you," said one woman to Mrs. Holmes, as she put her signature at the bottom of a petition.

Firemen want expert hired to view Cresap proposals

Unionized Pittsfield firefighters, with support from the Berkshire Central Labor Council (CLC), want the city to bring in a "qualified expert" before taking action on recommendations for Fire Department reorganization in the Cresap study of the city government.

Gerard E. Miller, president of the Pittsfield Firefighters Association, told The Eagle yesterday that he considers the people who did the Cresap survey "itinerant data diddlers" with "little or no experience in the fire service."

He said the firemen want the city to bring in a "recognized professional on firefighting and fire department organization" to review the firm's report.

The report lauds the Fire Department but recommends a cut of 41 people from the department and a reduction of $934,000 in the annual budget.

Ralph J. Froio, publicity chairman and vice president of the CLC, said Miller appeared at a meeting of the union council Saturday and was given unanimous support for his proposal to bring in an expert on fire departments.

"This is not a new proposal," Froio said in a statement for the CLC. "It has been done in several cities, including Michigan City [in Indiana]."

"The CLC feels," he continued, "that this is a reasonable request and that to do so would be in the best interests of the city of Pittsfield. Also, because of the impact on public safety, a meeting of this type should be arranged allowing the principal issues to be debated and open the meeting to the public.

"The complicated reduction of firefighters is bound to have an impact on insurance premiums, which is second to the safety of the public."

MAR 30 1983

Big cut in Public Works Dept. is proposed in Cresap report

This is the second in a series of six stories on the major recommendations in the Pittsfield city government reorganization study done by the Washington, D.C., firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget.

By Judy Katz

The Pittsfield Department of Public Works has many mansions and Cresap, McCormick & Paget wants to cut it back to a small estate.

In an analysis salted with criticisms of inefficient methods and insufficient planning, the consultants advise turning two DPW operations, forestry and the municipal garage, over to an expanded and renamed Department of Public Buildings. Three more — water, sewer and drain and sewage treatment plant — would merge to create a new and separate Department of Public Utilities.

52 changes suggested

Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr. enumerated the changes recommended in the Cresap report. Of 194 on the list, 52 affect the Department of Public Works. The total for the Fire Department, for comparison, is 17.

The consultants appear to have had their problems evaluating a department with seven main divisions plus subdivisions, about 133 full-time workers and a management style that does not conform to a business administration manual.

For instance, the report says the DPW's lack of formal objectives for each division "makes it difficult to determine whether budgeted funds are being used effectively." Records of how workers spend their time "are not sufficiently detailed to track work performance." The value of parts stored at the garage is hard to determine because "an inventory record system is not maintained." Each segment of the DPW "is allowed to function autonomously rather than as part of a coordinated effort."

The DPW has seen Proposition 2½ shrink its payroll 60 slots since 1980. The consultants claim it could drop another 28 and still get the work done.

They estimate that the city can save $210,000 a year and pare a total of 14 jobs from the DPW's highway, street, sewer and drains and forestry operations by using workers more efficiently and contracting out some work the department does now.

Cresap, McCormick & Paget gives high priority to shelving the DPW paving crew and letting contractors pave the streets. The DPW contends it does the job for less. The Cresap report calls that an illusion created by calculating costs without factoring in equipment maintenance, fringe benefits and total labor time.

When winter comes, the pavers plow. The consultants' alternative for putting plows on the road is to pull in people from other DPW divisions and other departments.

They see another $48,000 a year in savings if the DPW closes its sand plant and buys its sand instead.

Many work crews are oversize, according to the consultants. They call for trimming one worker each from the sewer and drains, pothole-patching, sidewalk and driveway repair and forestry crews.

But they want a general maintenance crew enlarged, from three to four, and a second three-man crew added. The key to getting the job done, they say, is planning ahead so workers can be where the work is.

For instance, they say $41,000 can be saved by merging the traffic and street divisions, eliminating a clerk and two of four jobs on the crew that paints lines on the streets. "When line painting is scheduled, the crew should be increased to three by transferring one laborer from the four-person general maintenance crew."

Eliminate five dispatchers

Five dispatchers at the municipal garage take calls, summon workers to cope with emergencies and pump gas. They can go, the consultants say, saving $70,000 a year. The highway division's timekeeping clerk can take calls during the day. The Police Department communications center can take them at night.

But there is a trade-off: a one-time investment of about $30,000 for automatically controlled gasoline pumps.

The consultants also want two mechanics assigned to night shift to perform preventive maintenance on city vehicles. And they consider two street supervisors one too many.

But above all, they want more recordkeeping. Detailed work orders for vehicle repairs. Checklists for preventive maintenance. Records of time spent working on each vehicle, parts used, cost of parts. Written work orders from mechanics before they are issued parts. Improved inventory control records.

In the water divison, envisioned as the core of the proposed new Department of Public Utilities, six jobs are marked for extinction.

The division does not need two supervisors and can manage with three fewer workers on construction crews, the consultants conclude. Its vehicles can be sent to the municipal garage instead of keeping a division repairman. And, since it has telemetry equipment to monitor the water supply, one of four human monitors can be dropped.

That adds up to savings of $83,000 in salaries and fringe benefits a year. But the new department will need a commissioner — "a professional engineer with experience in managing utilities." Cresap, McCormick & Paget estimates the city will have to pay $40,000 a year to get one.

The Cresap report dispenses advice for bringing more money in to DPW divisions as well as instructions for spending less. Water rates probably should rise to wipe out the water division deficit. Fees for unblocking sewers probably should be hiked to cover the full cost to the city. The engineering division should charge the federally funded Office of Community and Economic Development full freight for its services. And the garbage trucks left idle when Pittsfield turned to a private contractor for garbage collection "should be advertised for public auction and sold before the pieces become inoperative and of no value to the city."



Joel Librizzi

CITY MECHANIC Daniel Wright replaces 300-pound front-wheel springs on a 10-wheel truck. The Cresap report recommends a night shift at the West Street city yard for Public Works Dept. mechanics.

30.

Police cut, cruiser boost featured in Cresap plan

MAR 30 1983

This is the third in a series of six stories on the major recommendations in the Pittsfield city government reorganization study done by the Washington, D.C., firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget.

By Judy Katz

Cresap, McCormick & Paget didn't say anything in their report on city government management about putting a chicken in every police officer's pot. But they startled many citizens by proposing to put a car in every officer's garage.

Well, not exactly in the garage. The recommendation to issue each uniformed patrol officer his or her own marked cruiser, to take home and use for off-duty personal errands, contains the proviso that it be parked in "visible locations."

The cruiser idea stole the spotlight from other recommendations that would cut one captain and 18 officers from the 88-officer force. Since six officers would be replaced by lower-paid civilians, the net savings is $280,000.

Change in communications

In a city-paid reincarnation of the defunct CETA community service officer program, the civilians would take over communications, serve as dispatchers and drive the ambulance. If Cresap's plan to make the Police Department the city communications center is adopted the job would include handling fire and nighttime Department of Public Works calls as well.

The consultants decided that Pittsfield can fight crime with one less police captain and a dozen fewer officers, not counting those who would be replaced by civilians. The number is about what the department is slated to lose next year under its Proposition 2½ budget.

Cresap, McCormick & Paget claims that the sergeant who manages records could do the work now assigned to the administrative captain. Matching assignments to the average number of calls that come in on each shift, eliminating walking beats and changing the way ambulance calls are answered would make it possible to operate with fewer officers, according to the report.

The ambulance now picks up two walking beat officers on its way to answer a call. Instead, the consultants advise, the ambulance should zip directly to the scene. The two nearest patrol cars should meet it there.

Some major recommendations concern how the department works, not how much it costs.

The chief should meet periodically with supervisors, and they, in turn, with their subordinates "to convey information throughout the organization and to communicate comments and suggestions to the chief of police."

The reason: "Most communication is limited to the issuance of general orders and directives. Officers feel that their opinions and suggestions are not heeded. The absence of periodic staff meetings to discuss policy changes or procedures exacerbates this situation. Consequently, motivation and initiative appear to suffer."

The consultants also want detectives to teach patrol officers how to conduct better on-the-spot investigations. They want dispatchers to give patrol officers enough time to conduct them by holding or rerouting calls until the investigation is finished. And they want detectives to work overlapping 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. shifts, instead of shifts that end at 2 in the morning.

It is hard, says the report, to contact witnesses and follow up leads late at night.

To improve shift supervision, two sergeants would be promoted to lieutenant. To save $18,000 in police overtime, officers not on patrol duty — such as detectives, special investigations officers and record keepers — would no longer be trained, on overtime, as emergency medical technicians.

"The department's ability to provide emergency medical services would not be affected, since non-patrol officers seldom provide this service. Non-patrol officers should continue to receive first-responder training as required by Massachusetts state law."

52 cars needed

The city hired Cresap, McCormick & Paget to find ways to save money. But the recommendation to buy a cruiser for each patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant and captain living in Pittsfield — about 52 cars in all — would cost $67,000 more annually, counting extra interest payments, or $18,000 not counting interest. The consultants say that can be reduced by a lease-purchase plan.

An average of 10 cars would have to be purchased each year instead of the present nine, the consultants figure. Because the cars would be used less, they would be traded in every five years instead of annually, as is the case now.

The benefits of the one-man, one-car plan, as seen by the consultants:

— Visibility. "The distribution of officers' residences throughout the city is excellent, creating an impression of extensive presence . . . evidence suggests that residents feel better protected and more secure when police visibility increases." With so many marked police cars on the streets "increasing the apparent risk of arrest," citizens would drive more carefully.

— Better car care. Officers would be responsible for keeping their cars properly maintained and having it done while they are off duty. "Because vehicles would not be driven continuously, major repair problems should occur less frequently."

— Quicker emergency response. Officers would be required to leave their police radios on while using the cars off duty. In an emergency, "off-duty officers could be summoned rapidly and would appear at the emergency site fully equipped."

— Better patrol coverage. "Because officers would not need to exchange vehicles, they would remain in their patrol zones until relieved by the succeeding shift officers. As a result, patrolling would not suddenly decrease during shift changes."

MAR 31 1983



Susan Plagemann

IN FIRST KITE-FLYING venture of year, Megan Bachand, 6, admires the soaring object from the First Street Common. Megan and her mother, Sharon, let out 500 feet of string before beginning the laborious task of reeling it in.

In Brief . . .

MAR 31 1983

Nonsensical accusation

President Gerry Miller of the Pittsfield Firefighters Association is entitled to an "A" for alliteration but a booby-prize for accuracy when he tries to dismiss consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget as "data diddlers" with "little or no experience in the fire service." In point of fact, they were first brought to Pittsfield specifically because of their national reputation as experts on fire department management; expanding their study to include other city operations (where their credentials are also top-notch) was something of an afterthought. Mr. Miller's notion that the city should bring in still another consulting outfit to second-guess them is no rebuttal whatever to their recommendations.

Union is offering to furnish expert on firefighting

MAR 31 1983

The head of the Pittsfield Firefighters Association has petitioned the City Council for a public hearing on a consulting firm's study of the Fire Department.

"But I'm not asking the city to hire a consultant to study a consultant," said Gerard E. Miller, correcting what he said was an error in an Eagle story yesterday. "The firefighters' union will provide the expert."

The story to which he referred reported that the association, with support from the Berkshire Central Labor Council, wanted the city to bring in a qualified expert before taking action on a recommendation for Fire Department reorganization by the Washington, D.C., firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget.

The CLC support was for the public hearing request as well, said Miller. "They think a hearing is the democratic way to air something that could have such an effect on the city."

He is seeking the hearing, he stressed, so that the union can present a qualified expert on fire-department organization and management at the time.

New contract voted for administrators

Pittsfield's School Committee unanimously approved a new contract last night for principals, vice principals and related administrative and supervisory personnel that will provide raises of approximately 20.5 percent over three years.

Approval of the pact, ratified earlier in the afternoon by the 45-member Pittsfield Educational Administrators Association, ends 15 months of sometimes glacially slow collective bargaining. It is the last of four school-union contracts to be settled in that period of time.

It will be retroactive to Aug. 1, the day after the previous three-year contract expired. Since December, the PEAA has been operating without an extension of the old contract, which until then had been extended from negotiating session to negotiating session as progress appeared to warrant.

The raises, according to Assistant Superintendent Charles R. Bordeau, average approximately 6.5 percent for this year and 7 percent for each of the next two. But there are some salary hikes as low as 4 percent this year and 5.5 and 5.3 percent, respectively, in each of the next two. Variations depend on position and place on the somewhat complicated four-step salary scale.

MAR 31 1983

Most Cresap proposals seen going into budget

1983 APR 1 1983

By Judy Katz

Mayor Charles L. Smith said yesterday that he still expects to use about 80 percent of the Cresap report's recommendations for streamlining government operations and that the budget will be revised to reflect the bulk of the changes within "a couple of weeks."

The mayor, who has just returned from a two-week golfing vacation in Scottsdale, Ariz., said he sees one striking difference between the Cresap cost-cutting tips and plans submitted earlier by department heads as part of the city's annual budget ritual.

"The report seems more concerned with the people being serviced. The department heads seem more concerned with the department and its employees," he said. "It stands out like a sore thumb, the difference."

Smith mentioned two examples: the library and the Fire Department. The Fire Department proposed closing two fire stations. The Cresap report calls for keeping them open and reducing the use of equipment instead. The library proposed closing one day a week and eliminating the bookmobile. The Cresap report calls for maintaining present hours and bookmobile service while eliminating six mainly upper-level positions.

The actual choice

Since "cuts have to be made anyway" because of Proposition 2½, he said, the choice is between making them the Cresap, McCormick & Paget way or some other way, not between following the Cresap report and doing nothing.

In most departments, the savings suggested by the Washington, D.C., consulting firm go beyond the cuts required under Proposition 2½. So "the Cresap report gives me a little more to distribute to departments that are given a high priority," he said.

The budgets he gave departments to work with earlier this year were not final, the mayor continued: "In some departments I would cut deeper to give more money to higher priority departments."

He added that the schools are still a top priority and that if more money becomes available, he will make every effort to level-fund the school budget.

A plan to replace City Hall's antiquated telephone system had been put on the back burner until the consultant's report came in. A city committee had recommended a system that would save money but still require a telephone operator. The Cresap report strongly recommends choosing one that does not require an operator.

Smith said he will listen to the consultants and "absolutely" pick an operatorless system. He and Director of Administrative Services Lawrence A. Grizey Jr. will review the bids again and make a choice "within a couple of weeks."

Right now, he said, he is leaning toward accepting the Centrex system offered by New England Telephone Co. but buying some of the equipment elsewhere.

Budget hearings seen as forum on Cresap cuts

Firefighters' union head Gerard E. Miller doesn't have to ask the City Council for a public hearing on Cresap, McCormick & Paget's study of the Fire Department, City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi said yesterday, because he will get one automatically when the budget process begins.

Miller petitioned the Council for the hearing so the union can bring in its own expert on Fire Department organization.

Each year, the City Council holds department-by-department public hearings on the proposed budget. Stracuzzi observed that although "we welcome people and give them every opportunity" to comment or provide information, "traditionally, no one comes."

The Cresap report is a management tool that will be used to help the city handle the budget cuts that must be made, Stracuzzi said. He stressed that no action can be taken until after the budget hearings in any case.

The sessions scheduled beginning next week with department heads to discuss the Cresap report are "working sessions, not decision-making sessions," Stracuzzi said. "There will be no votes. We can't do anything — we don't even have a budget before us."

The budget hearings are "the time and place for comments on any cutbacks," he said. "If the Cresap recommendations are in the budget, they will be addressed."

He added that the Council has asked anyone who wants to respond to any element of the Cresap report to submit comments to the Council in writing so they can be thoroughly studied and considered. The Council would be happy to receive written comments from an expert supplied by the firefighters' union, he said.

But since budget cuts must be made either the Cresap way or another way, he said, "My suggestion to the Fire Department or to anyone else would be, 'Bring cost-saving alternatives to us as soon as possible.' "

Cresap would cut 12 of 20 posts in Health Dept.

This is the fifth in a series of six stories on the major recommendations in the Pittsfield city government reorganization study done by the Washington, D.C., firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget.

By Judy Katz

Cresap, McCormick & Paget report that about $160,000 can be squeezed from the Health Department's budget of about $350,000. That would mean savings of 46 percent — the most dramatic the Washington, D.C., consulting firm wrung from any of the 22 government agencies it studied.

The consultants say many things the department does could be done just as well by part-time, temporary or outside help or by transferring the job, but not the jobholder, to another department. Other things the department does, they report, simply do not need to be done at all.

Eliminate school nurses

Commissioner of Public Health Louis A. Bolduc now supervises a staff of 20. If all the management consultants' suggestions are adopted, eight would remain. One of the lost jobs is the one that belongs to Bolduc's wife, the health laboratory bacteriologist.

Maintaining a school nurse program and a full-time laboratory is on Cresap, McCormick & Paget's list of things that do not need to be done at all.

Except at the high schools, school nurses are present at any one school only 30 percent of the time, the consultants found. When they are absent, the schools take care of minor medical emergencies and call an ambulance for serious ones. The consultants say that what works 70 percent of the time can work the rest of the time.

"Other tasks, such as assisting dental hygienists, are an unnecessary use of nursing staff; when nurses are not scheduled at a school, the hygienists conduct their program adequately without a school nurse in attendance," the report says.

They recommend that one of the two public health nurses serve the school district part time during the school year, meeting requirements of state law. The nurse would handle student evaluations and physical examinations and give prescription medicine to younger students.

Temporary nurses should be hired, only for the days and hours needed, to assist the school doctors with physicals and immunizations.

The consultants' recommendation would save $110,400 by dropping five school nurses, two health aides and a clerk.

Close the laboratory

The consultants recommend saving about $40,000 a year by closing the laboratory and contracting with private laboratories for the handful of tests that are actually needed.

In that category are water tests; sanitary inspection tests of milk, food and eating utensils in restaurants; blood tests for lead poisoning, and some rarely needly tests such as those for salmonellosis.

Those account for small part of the lab's activity. It also performed about 950 drug-abuse tests in 1981, along with 2,200 of assorted kinds that the department has historically performed as a convenience but intended to discontinue in the coming year. Of the 9,000 tests performed for Pittsfield residents, the department says strep throat cultures account for the great majority.

"Certain laboratory services offered are inappropriate for a public agency," the Cresap report comments. For instance, "Conducting free strep throat culture examinations for patients of private physicians is a service more suitably provided by private laboratories."

There is "insufficient justification" for adding to the laboratory's burden by taking on the job of tests to detect drug use, according to the consultants. The state reiumburses the lab for supplies, but not for staff time.

At the least, they say, the city should cut the lab back to a 20-hour week, Monday through Friday, with one part-time bacteriologist instead of the present lab staff of two full timers and one part timer.

The need to staff the lab routinely on weekends at time and a half "has not been convincingly demonstrated," they report. If weekend coverage is needed, it could be provided at far less cost by hiring a part timer just for weekends.

Another $20,000 would be saved by eliminating the housing code inspector and assigning the job to the city building inspectors.

APR 1 1983



Joel Librizzi

BACTERIOLOGIST Mary Irene Bolduc tests city water in the Health Department laboratory that the Cresap report recommends closing.

32.

The Cresap report

APR 4 1983

Will Pittsfield bite the bullet?

By Judy Katz

CRESAP, McCormick & Paget have told us how we can take home all the goodies in the government store and still keep our pennies in our pockets. Next, the department heads will tell us why we really can't. City councilors will make speeches.

Then — if history is a true guide — they will hang up their copies of the Cresap government management report like tennis racquets after a brisk game and agree that although nothing was accomplished, it was good exercise.

* * * *

Pittsfield is the Bermuda Triangle of government studies. Remember the Herklots Report? It came out in 1974 after six months of study by a team of dedicated volunteers, the cobalt of blue-ribbon commissions. Members of the Herklots Commission could read the Cresap report and scribble, "We told you so" all over the margins.

A sheaf of Cresap recommendations repeat Herklots recommendations that were ignored almost 10 years ago. Give the treasurer's job to the tax collector. Halve, or almost halve, the number of departments that report to the mayor. Create a central finance department headed by a glorified city auditor. Take the building, wiring and plumbing inspectors out of isolation and attach them to a related department.

But this time Proposition 2½ may write a new ending on the script.

For instance, it will take some championship gymnastics for the fire unions to convince the citizenry that idling two pieces of equipment and taking two men off the rescue car will jeopardize public safety when the alternative, at least according to the budget, is closing two fire stations. Especially now that parents are deploying their militia to defend the schools. Going along with Cresap could save enough extra to ward off downgrading Crosby Middle School to the elementary level.

The man who chaired the Herklots Commission and gave it his name complained bitterly on the anniversary of its report that the City Council ducked its responsibility. An understandable reaction, but not a reasonable one. A politician who hasn't learned to duck responsibility when controversy is raging isn't around for the next battle.

But this time, any elected official whose assessment of what is best for the city doesn't match his or her assessment of what is best for the next election campaign has that Proposition 2½ foxhole handy. Unless the preliminary budgets Mayor Smith gave department heads are pure bogeymen, to cut or not to cut is definitely not the question. The city has no choice.

Of course, all bets are off if City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro suddenly tells the mayor that he found another couple of million dollars in an old mattress.

* * * *

The budget pinch tilts the odds in favor of changes that promise to save money without noticeably inconveniencing the public. That covers a great many that affect the fire, police, parks, health and public works departments. But some that might look like particularly good bets — cutting an extra inspector or supervisor here or a laboratory there — are really long shots.

When the Department of Public Works is involved, if you want a change you had better be sure it's OK with the boss, Jerry Doyle. The Cresap report calls for a computerized gasoline dispensing system. So did Pete Arlos, more than a year ago, but gas is still pumped by hand. The Cresap report calls for stripping away a layer of DPW supervisors. So has Angelo Stracuzzi, year after year. But the supervisors are still there. The Cresap report calls for contracting out street paving. So did Mayor Smith, but nothing happened. Trying to change the DPW is like punching holes in the sea. Jerry Doyle, one frustrated observer once remarked, "always has all the answers — and if he doesn't, he makes them up."

* * * *

Then there is the British regiment effect. I named that for a movie I saw on television. At a climactic moment, the major tells the subaltern, "Do you think this is about honor? It's about comradeship. Friendship."

Pittsfield city government is like that. Those on the inside truly believe there is no nobler way to spend taxpayers' money than to help a friend. Even the friend of a friend. Willy Loman was right. What really matters is to be well-liked.

But these are lean times. Jobs are going to disappear in any case. With the Cresap report whispering that services don't have to disappear along with the jobs, even the mooing of sacred cows may only conjure up visions of beefsteak.

APR 4 1983

Clerk Condron plans to retire, files dissent on Cresap report

By Judy Katz

Francis J. Condron, who has been city clerk for 11 years and has doubled as city treasurer for nine, plans to retire this year.

Condron, who celebrated his 65th birthday Jan. 14, has been talking about retirement for months. But he put it in writing — in the form of "an observation," he said yesterday, not an official notice — in an acid dissent from Cresap, McCormick & Paget's recommendations for the city clerk's office.

He will retire "sometime between now and January," he said.

If the Cresap report recommendation to make the city clerk's office part time is shelved and an election for a new full-time city clerk is held in November, he said he will stay until his elected successor takes office next January. Otherwise, he said, he will leave sooner.

'Running a little late'

"I hoped to be retired when I was 65," he said. "But I'm running a little late. I don't intend to stay on hand and drop dead at my desk."

Condron was elected city clerk in 1971 and last faced the voters in the election of 1977. Under the city charter, after a city clerk is elected to three successive two-year terms, the voters are asked by ballot question if he should have permanent tenure. Their answer was "yes."

When John J. Norton retired as treasurer in 1973, Condron was appointed to do that job as well, on a part-time basis. He receives 25 percent of the salary established for treasurer in addition to his city clerk's salary.

Condron mentioned his plan to retire in a statement blasting the changes management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget recommend for his office. The City Council had asked each department to submit written comments on the section of the Cresap government management report that affects its operations.

The consultants proposed making the clerk's job part time, moving the task of keeping birth, marriage and death records to the tax collector's office, shortening the hours the clerk's office is open to the public and charging fees for services now provided free.

'It's disgusting'

Condron declared that the clerk's office should remain full time. Moving vital statistics to another office would be illegal, he said, because state law stipulates that they be filed with the clerk.

Of proposals to charge more fees and be open fewer hours, he said flatly, "I think it's disgusting."

If City Hall is open from 8:30 to 4, he said, the public is entitled to come in any time from 8:30 to 4.

"We're supposed to be rendering a service," Condron said. "It's coming to the point where we're not rendering a service, we're selling a product. They're charging everybody to do everything."

APR 6 1983

Chief Coy defends his original plan as he, police chief rap Cresap study

By Judy Katz

If the Fire Department must be trimmed to fit the budget, Fire Chief Joseph W. Coy said last night, he would stick to his plan to close the Holmes Road and West Housatonic Street stations rather than keeping stations open but idling equipment as recommended by the Cresap report.

"I recognize that the recommendations Cresap made are popular," Coy said. "That doesn't mean they are right."

Washington, D.C., management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget called for putting a pumper at the Central Fire Station out of service. That is tantamount to closing that station, Coy told the City Council. With only a ladder truck and the rescue squad staffed, there would be "no fire extinguishing capability in the downtown area," he said.

"If we had a fire on North Street, the first companies there will be a ladder truck and a rescue company with no hose, no water, no nozzles. What are they going to do? Stand there and watch it until an engine company arrives?"

First to comment

Coy and Police Chief Stanley Stankiewicz, along with the presidents of the police and firefighters' unions, were the first department heads to give the Council their opinions of the Cresap study. Others are scheduled to follow suit tomorrow night, Thursday and two nights next week.

Stankiewicz said that no matter how many officers are cut from his budget, "I will run a Police Department." But, he added, with the 19-officer reduction envisioned by the Cresap report "I wouldn't have the right people to put in the positions to do the job. How well do you want me to run a police department is what I'm asking."

Coy also made it clear that he wants his department intact. But he maintained that if he must meet a Proposition 2½-straitened budget, concentrating two pumpers at the Central Fire Station and closing two stations provides the most efficient firefighting response. It creates a "cohesive task force," he said.

Gerard E. Miller, head of the firefighters' union, called for adding firefighters rather than subtracting them. "Put your priorities in order," he told the Council. "Decide where you will make cuts. Will it be dollars and cents or lives and property?"

Miller's comments summed up the underlying thrust of both departments' response to Cresap's recommendations for saving about $900,000 a year in the Fire Department and about $280,000 a year in the Police Department: Don't.

Fire alarm boxes

Coy said he has no problem with Cresap's call for eliminating most street fire alarm boxes as long as it is done gradually "over a couple of years."

The master boxes in commercial buildings and institutions should stay, he said, but charges should probably be reviewed to make sure they cover the cost of maintenance.

While Coy, in answer to a question from Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, confirmed that he agrees with virtually nothing in the Cresap report, Stankiewicz said he is prepared to accept recommendations that do not cost him police officers.

But he objected strongly to every recommendation that would. Civilians cannot staff the communications center, he said. Their lack of street experience would prevent them from screening calls to avoid dispatching patrol cars unnecessarily, he said, and they could not help with searches, arrests or bailing prisoners.

Cresap calculated that switching to lower-paid civilians could eliminate six officers.

The chief said he favors a recommendation to upgrade two sergeants to lieutenant — but, he added, without losing the sergeants. And instead of eliminating the administrative captain, he said, the job should be upgraded to deputy chief.

The Cresap report, he said, did not consider all the duties of the administrative captain.

Information said dated

The chief and Anthony Riello, the president of the police union, told the Council that Cresap, McCormick & Paget relied on outdated information from an earlier police study by Wasserman Associates.

As a result, Riello said, the shifts could not be staffed if 19 officers (the figure includes the administrative captain) are cut. He explained that since the Wasserman report, the existing complement has become even more heavily weighted with officers who have long tenure on the force. That means they are entitled to more time off and longer vacations.

Cresap used Wasserman's calculation that it takes 1.8 officers on the payroll to provide one officer on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Riello said the figure is now closer to two.

The controversial Cresap proposal to provide every patrol officer with a take-home police cruiser of his own also met with disfavor. Stankiewicz said he liked the idea at first. But after talking to officers and others, he said, he changed his mind. The officers, he said, would not be willing to take the cars.

APR 7 1983

Council votes to televise final Cresap report session

If the mayor accedes to a City Council vote taken last night, the city will spend about $300 to televise the final act of the Cresap report drama on Thursday evening of next week.

That night at 8, a representative of the Washington, D.C., management consulting firm will return to answer questions raised by department heads during three sessions this week and one scheduled Wednesday.

The Council also voted to print 200 copies of the Cresap report if at least 100 people sign up in advance to buy it at $3 a copy.

The request to print extra copies and to televise the proceedings came from At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey.

He said he does not believe the public is properly informed of the contents of the report. Holding up his copy, he declared that it will follow the earlier Herklots and Jacobs government studies into oblivion "unless we get public interest and involvement."

"The proof," City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi countered, "will be in the voting."

McCaffrey's suggestion at first met with merriment. At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos, predicting that dusty piles would remain unsold in the city clerk's office, said he would support printing the Cresap report if a year's subscription to Playboy were given with each copy. Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman, who called for Playgirl to be offered as an alternative, said she had not received requests for copies.

But Stracuzzi said he had, and McCaffrey declared he could sell 200 copies at General Electric ordnance systems alone.

Arlos expressed skepticism. "Those GE ordnance people wouldn't pay a dime to see the Statue of Liberty do the twist," he said.

The compromise — to print only if enough people ordered in advance and if so, to seek the least expensive means rather than accepting the quoted price of $200 that McCaffrey obtained — passed unanimously.

Mrs. Ausman and Stracuzzi voted against the request for an appropriation to televise Thursday's session. Mrs. Ausman said she is "absolutely opposed to paying to have TV coverage of our deliberations" — except perhaps, she added with a smile, "just before my election."

But Ward 2 Councilor Kenneth G. Warren said he believes it is important to televise the discussion. He said he "got a lot of comments" after the telecast of the initial presentation by Cresap, McCormick & Paget to the Council.

City's inspectors want to keep independence

The city's autonomous building, wiring, plumbing and gas inspectors and sealer of weights and measures told the City Council Tuesday night that they firmly believe they should remain autonomous.

Management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget recommended that they be put under the supervision of the Fire Department's fire inspection division, currently headed by Capt. Richard J. Briggs. The Cresap report also recommended that the Health Department's housing code enforcement inspector be eliminated and his duties be taken over by the building inspector.

Spokesman for the inspectors said that it couldn't be done and that specific non-interchangeable expertise was needed to perform the various jobs. Robert J. Pomeroy, building inspector, said going back and forth between Fire Department headquarters and City Hall would be bothersome. He said he is for consolidation of the inspectors, as long as all are put under the building inspector.

Health Commissioner Louis A. Bolduc said the Cresap authors evidently didn't understand the difference between housing and building inspectors. The Health Department's housing inspector deals only with sanitary code violations and conditions likely to affect the health of occupants, he said, not with structural matters which are the concern of the building inspector.

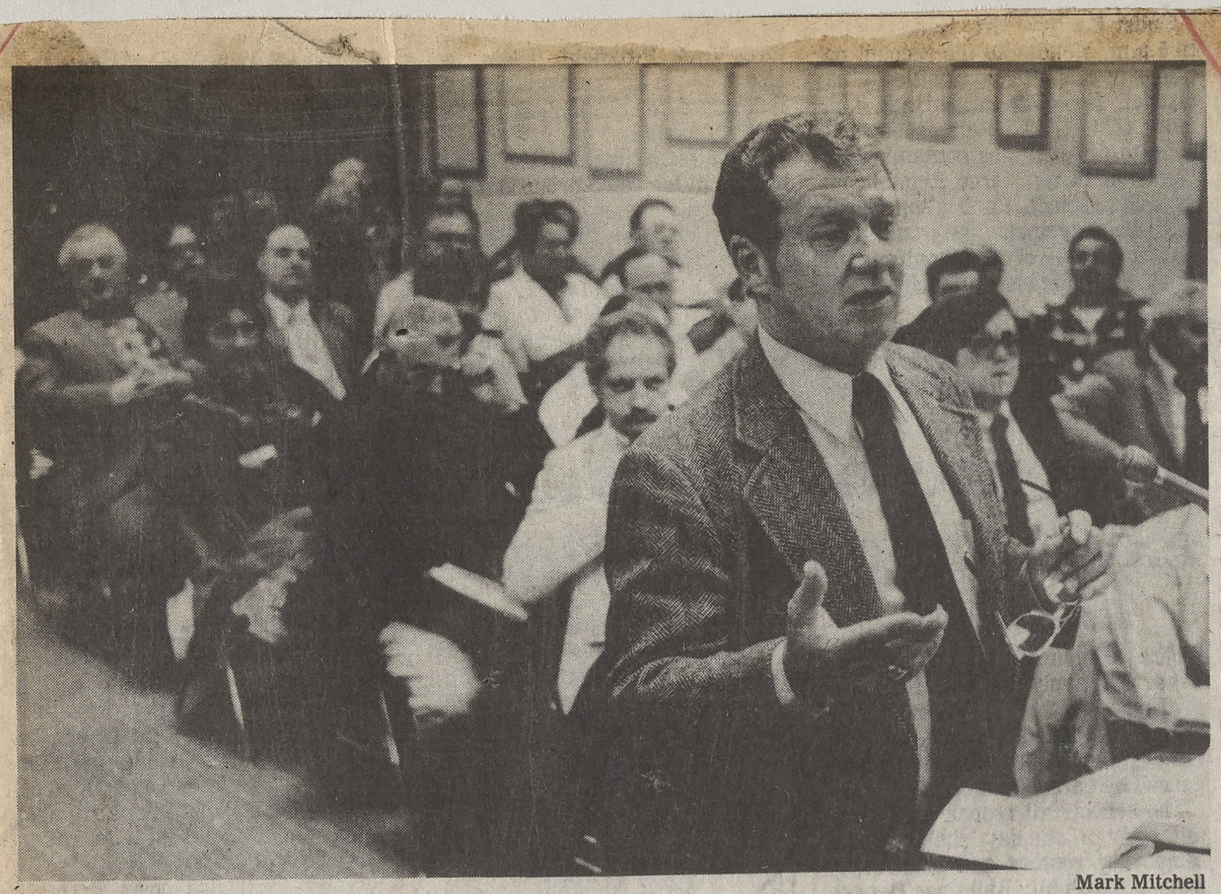
Attorney Thomas Sherman, former assistant city solicitor, spoke on behalf of the Pittsfield Supervisory Union, whose membership includes the heads of the inspection departments. He said the Cresap report ignores certain state laws and city ordinances requiring specific numbers and types of inspectors.

Sherman said that "with all due respect to Capt. Briggs, he doesn't have the expertise" to supervise the various inspectors.

City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi told Sherman that it "appalls me no end" that the union Sherman was representing is make up of "manager and supervisors." Stracuzzi said he has always believed that these people should deal with the city government as individuals, not through a union.

Sherman replied that state law gives them the right to collective bargaining even though they are supervisors and they are merely exercising that right.

APR 7 1983



Mark Mitchell

HARD-HITTING ATTACK on the Cresap report is made by Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle, addressing the City Council at City Hall.

APR 7 1983

DPW chief foresees havoc if Cresap changes prevail

By Judy Katz

If the Cresap report's recommendations for the Department of Public Works are implemented, Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle said last night, roads will go unplowed and backed-up sewers will stay plugged.

"Except for the people that I'm going to lose [there would be 28] — and they're young people that still have families," the commissioner said, "I would almost say that I'd like to see this. I'd like to see it happen just the way it is here. And then I'd like to be on the outside — which by then I'd hope I would be — looking in. Then I can shoot the darts and say, 'How did this happen?' "

Doyle's DPW and the Department of Public Buildings had their turns last night to tell the City Council what they think of the recommendations of management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget for streamlining their departments. More department heads will be heard tomorrow night, and a final group will speak Wednesday.

Argues for jobs

Ronald Spring, acting superintendent of public buildings, argued that the jobs in his department marked for elimination in the Cresap report are necessary. They are the same ones he himself cut to meet his Proposition 2½ budget for next year, he said — but only because they are now unfilled.

Otherwise, Spring had few objections to the report. It recommends expanding the Public Buildings Department into an overall Department of Maintenance by adding the municipal garage and forestry departments from the DPW and the maintenance crews from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Most of the Council's time and attention focused on the DPW. Doyle called the Cresap report "very incomplete."

At one point, his copy of the report and his department's chunky written dissent slid off the lectern and fell to the floor. The same thing had happened to Cresap, McCormick & Paget Vice President William G. Evans when Evans addressed the Council last month, and he quipped at the time that he would offer an additional recommendation free of charge: Install a lip on the lectern.

"The only thing that guy said that was right," Doyle declared, tapping the edge of the lectern, "was that we should have a thing on it."

He found a partial ally in Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman, who said she understands it takes two workers — one of them a top-grade motor equipment operator — to run each of the city's four large snowfighter trucks.

With the number of operators left after implementing the report, Doyle said, "there is no way we can snowplow. That man from Georgia [Evans], who admitted he never saw snow before, asked my supervisor, and he was told it takes eight to snowplow."

That, Doyle said in answer to a question from Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, is why when he cut 15 jobs from the DPW to meet his budget, he cut mainly laborers. Cresap's cuts fall heavily on supervisors and higher-rated workers.

As for turning collection of permit fees over to the tax collector, whose office is on the first floor of City Hall, he remarked that since the permits originate in his basement office, "We ought to set that up in the elevator."

Attorney Philip F. Heller, chairman of the Traffic Commission, called the Council's attention to Cresap's recommendation to move parking meter coin collectors out of the traffic department and into the Police Department. He said his commission wants to be sure that responsibility for repairing or replacing parking meters will move with the men who now do that work.

In their written comments, DPW division heads frequently said that the consultants based recommendations on incomplete or incorrect information. Stracuzzi remarked that the same complaint had come from other departments.

"You volunteered no information, isn't that what it adds up to?" At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos asked Doyle. "You acted as if they were the Internal Revenue."

Doyle also maintained that contrary to the Cresap report's finding, the DPW paves streets more cheaply than private contractors. Mrs. Ausman interjected that the street-paving question is really a matter of deciding the most effective method; savings are not really involved, because either way most street work is reimbursed by the state.

Cresap recommended solving the snowplowing problem by pulling in workers from other departments and divisions. Jack V. Groat, president of the blue-collar workers' union, told the Council that if the Cresap report goes into effect, laborers will be asked to refuse to drive vehicles unless they are promoted to motor equipment operator. They have that right, he said, because the work is above their classification.

APR 8 1983

In Brief . . .

Cutting up Cresap

Listening to the parade of municipal department heads who have been dumping on the cost-cutting recommendations of the Cresap report, a gullible bystander might wonder whether the mayor and City Council should be impeached for giving $84,000 to a troop of ding-a-lings masquerading as management experts. In point of fact, what we are witnessing is merely the instinctive, utterly predictable determination of bureaucrats to protect their turf, come hell or high water. Unfortunately, in the public sector, they can usually do so successfully, if only because it's not feasible to tell department heads to get in line or get out. If, for instance, a Jerry Doyle says a proposed change in his way of doing things won't work, that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. It won't if he doesn't want it to.

Cresap scored on methods used in library evaluation

APR 9 1983

Trustees of the Berkshire Athenaeum at a meeting Thursday heard Librarian Larry C. Price and their chairman, Jurgen A. Thomas, criticize the way Cresap consultants evaluated the library in preparing that firm's report on city departments.

Price said most of the analysis was done from the documents requested by Cresap consultants, not from more extensive observations of the way the library works. Consultants also interviewed Price, Thomas and department heads.

Price was particularly indignant that no observations were done after school or during evening hours, two very busy times. Nor did the consultants examine or observe mechanical routines.

"They did not seem terribly aware of technologies available to libraries," Price told the trustees. "Certainly they weren't familiar with current ones."

Don't tell story

Instead, they were more interested in circulation figures and data, which "kept the photocopier busy," he said.

But their objections that those figures don't tell the whole story pointed up the dilemma of how to find a persuasive yardstick for something that can be regarded as intangible — the cultural and educational level of a community.

Thomas opened the meeting with a quotation, prepared for the Chicago library by the consulting firm of Waples, Carnovsky & Randall:

"Library officials will be forced, as never before in this country, to rest their claims for appropriations, not on sentimental appeals, but upon the sort of evidence that city officials obtain from other departments. (Reasonable questions should be asked) but tax-reducing bodies are not reasonable in times of economic crisis," the consultants wrote. The quotation fits the current dilemma, but it was written in 1932, Thomas said.

"The number of books circulated is not a full measure of our purpose," said Thomas. "But we cannot come up with potholes filled and calls answered."

Price maintained that the city's consultants "totally missed the mark of what a library does by classifying it as a leisure service."

Donald S. Feigenbaum said the report is based on technical factors, whereas the library is part of the educational process, building up the level of knowledge.

"One of the reasons my company [General Systems] is here is that the cultural and educational level is high here," he said, urging that that aspect be considered in the deliberations.

Feigenbaum suggested calling on the expertise of the state library association. But Evelyn Perrera said the association's resources might not take into account the Athenaeum's regional responsibilities.

"Pittsfield and Berkshire County are different from other small industrial cities," Mrs. Perera said.

Price said some of the things Cresap recommends that the Athenaeum eliminate are "the very things that libraries are seeking federal grants to start." Price serves on the board of the New England Library Association that distributes federal funds.

Heartened by support

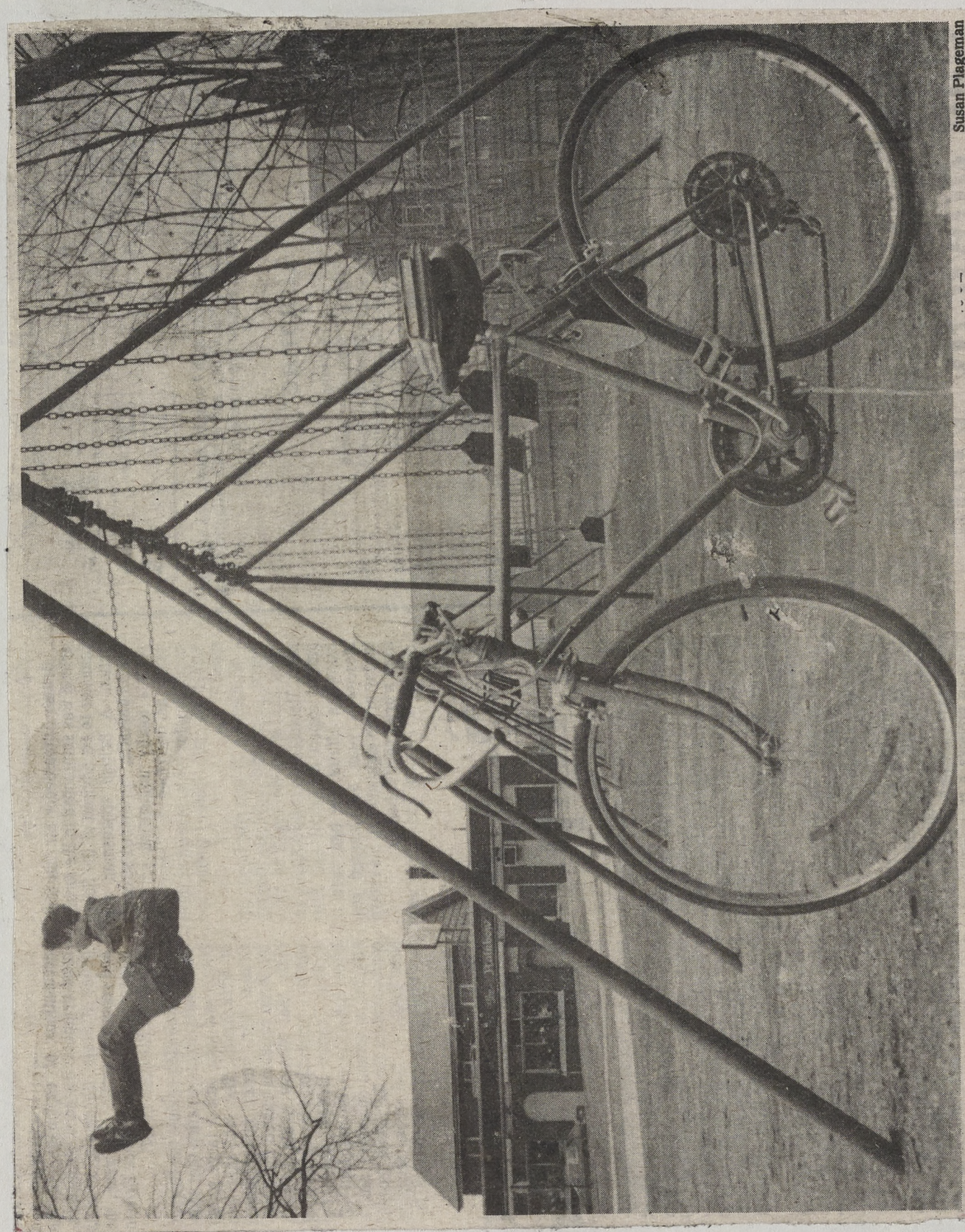
Thomas said he is heartened by the outpouring of public support for the library, as evidenced by a flurry of letters to both The Eagle and Mayor Charles L. Smith. Smith's comment that the Fire Department and the library's proposal to cut services rather than staff were examples of how not to comply with budget cutting, was met with dismay. However, Thomas said Smith has announced his intention of retaining the city's bookmobile, first on the list of cuts proposed by the trustees.

The trustees also accepted the report on developing a long-range planning process presented by a committee headed by Feigenbaum.

The recommended process schedules planning sessions annually after the annual meeting, to be completed in time for the budget. These plans would be reviewed and updated yearly, with a more comprehensive cycle every three years.

Thomas termed setting up the long-range planning process the most important thing the board will do in the coming year.

"We cannot go on with crisis intervention and reactive planning to things like Cresap and 2½," he said.



Susan Plageman

Spring swing APR 9 1983

Pittsfield High School sophomore Bill Warner stops at The Common for a swing on his way to class.

APR 13 1983

McCaffrey bid for Cresap vote defeated, 10-1

A bid by Councilor James R. McCaffrey to get a City Council vote at its next meeting, April 26, on the recommendations of the Cresap report for reorganizing the city government was defeated by a 10-1 vote last night.

McCaffrey's petition, submitted under suspension of the rules, called for line-by-line vote on the report from consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget "to provide Mayor [Charles] Smith with a guideline as to what Council support he can expect."

The vote would by strictly "informational," and councilors could later change their votes "for any reason," he said.

"The mayor doesn't need our guidance. He's not a puppet," commented Councilor Peter G. Arlos. "It's up to him to make decisions."

Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, also opposed the idea, saying the Council and mayor have "worked together very well over the past two years and he knows where we're coming from."

He added that a vote at this stage would be inappropriate, since factors that might emerge during the coming city budget sessions would be apt to influence decisions on the Cresap recommendations.

Councilor Joseph W. Ryan, who agreed with Stracuzzi regarding the budget sessions, moved to refer the matter to the Council's Committee of the Whole. McCaffrey was the only one voting against that.

Cresap misreads library's work

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The Cresap, McCormick & Paget management study, which tells us that we can have fewer services and save money, poses a serious question to the residents of Pittsfield: Do we want services cut beyond the levels dictated by the funding limits of Proposition 2½? Further, do we want the Cresap report to decide where the cuts are to be made? In the case of the Berkshire Athenaeum, the answer is no.

From 1971 until 1982, I worked there and had day-to-day experience with just how well used the library is. For six days every week, during every hour the library is open, it is *busy*! For some people, the library is a source of free entertainment. They can borrow books, magazines and records, and attend children's programs and the Library Arts Series. Others are there to further their education. With three high schools and a community college, the library is assured of a constant influx of students of all ages. Still other patrons are looking for the answer to practical or personal questions.

Anyone who uses the library knows, however, that having books on the shelves is not enough. Vast quantities of information are being generated every day, and as with other aspects of life, the business of finding the right book or bit of information for each library patron (as quickly as possible) has become more complicated. The combination of a large and varied collection and a knowledgeable and dedicated staff makes the Berkshire Athenaeum the asset it is to Pittsfield.

The Cresap report tells us we don't need all the library's services or all the present staff. The recommendations are based on an incomplete study. No one from Cresap observed the Reference Department helping students from the time school is dismissed until closing time, or watched the Local History Department guiding determined genealogists through volumes of area history.

If the Cresap team had spent a day dealing with the actual volume of materials checked in and out of the main desk or handling the requests of bookmobile borrowers, the report would have been quite different. Their obvious inexperience with library service and complete lack of understanding of the needs and wants of Pittsfield's residents are dismaying. I hope that the library's many users will let the city government know how much they value these services.

LINDA M. KAUFMANN
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Pittsfield

APR 13 1983

The Athenaeum is vital to the city

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

All one has to do is walk through the library so see that this is a vital and well-used public service. It is not just a building. Various ages, interests and walks of life are represented as they pursue new and interesting bits of learning. It is indeed a depository of information, and with the help of the staff we can dive in and discover!

How easy it would be to jump on the "save some money" bandwagon! But are we willing to eliminate positions (all those administrative positions are also "worker" positions, with the administration often done after hours), close the library an additional day or two a week, eliminate the bookmobile (where do the elderly, the infirm and those without transportation fit into the picture?), eliminate the Young Adult librarian, and staff the Music and Arts Department with volunteers?

True, the library is a leisure activity, but it is also an instrument of learning. If we profess a desire to upgrade Pittsfield — its economy, its schools, its artistic endeavors — logic will not allow us to destroy the Berkshire Athenaeum. Just as the heart is a vital organ of the body, so also is the library vital to Pittsfield.

CARROLL HICKEY
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The writer is former president of the Friends of the Athenaeum.

Library says cut days, not staff

APR 14 1983

It would be better to close the Berkshire Athenaeum entirely one day a week and on Saturdays during the summer, library representatives told the City Council last night, than to follow the recommendations of management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget to eliminate professional staff members who provide special services.

"The days we are open we would be able to render quality service," said librarian Larry Price. Jurgen A. Thomas, president of the library trustees, agreed. "We have to avoid nibbling away at the budget," he said.

The Athenaeum proposed the closings, along with elimination of the young adults' section and the bookmobile, to meet their withered budget allotment under the third year of Proposition 2½. "We didn't like the recommended cutbacks we proposed," Price said. But, Thomas added, "it is quality, not quantity, that we have to bear down on."

Price and Thomas were principal spokesmen for the library at a special City Council meeting to consider the section of the Cresap management study report that affects that department and several others.

Both expressed disappointment in the $96,000 Cresap study, which included an analysis of all non-school city departments.

Price said he had expected recommendations for using new technology, particularly computer technology, in order to improve library operations. Instead, he said, that kind of recommendation was "sadly lacking."

Buy microcomputers

In answer to a councilor's question, he said he would advise buying microcomputers. They would be valuable for cataloging, he said, and could probably be used to some extent for reference information retrieval as well.

He said the system he has in mind would cost between $5,000 and $6,000 and estimated that it would pay for itself through increased efficiency in about 18 months.

Thomas told the Council that the library trustees have begun developing a long-range plan for the library. He offered to provide councilors with copies of the plan in its present form.

The Cresap report recommends eliminating one of three reference librarians, in addition to the supervisor of the local history collection, the two specialized staff members of the music and arts section, the head of the Young Adults' section, and an assistant to the children's librarian.

Business and industry, from General Electric Co. down to "mom and pop stores," are the heaviest users of the reference department, Thomas said.

Price and the library staff earlier provided councilors with detailed written comments on the Cresap report, as have other affected departments. The staff warned that following the consultants' recommendations would deprive patrons of assistance with research in local history, overburden the circulation staff with attempts to assist "disoriented music and arts patrons and displaced young adults," imperil the annual series of free films and performances at the Athenaeum which is coordinated by the music and arts staff, force long waits on patrons who need to consult the reference department and reduce service to children and young people.

At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey suggested that hours be shifted to keep the library open more evenings at the expense of morning hours. But both Price and Thomas said that would inconvenience people who prefer to use the library before the influx of students ushers in the extremely busy period of the day.

Most city workers cut by Prop. 2½ end up recalled

APR 14 1983

By Judy Katz

With one exception, no city clerical worker, firefighter or police officer has been permanently dropped from the city payroll due to budget cuts during the first two years of Proposition 2½, Director of Administrative Services Lawrence A. Grizey said last night.

Grizey said that it is possible that may be true of blue collar workers as well.

Jobs were eliminated due to Proposition 2½ and some people were laid off, he said. But he said those laid off, with the exception of a keypunch operator whose specific skill was no longer needed, were subsequently called back when other jobs opened up through retirements or resignations.

He said he is not familiar enough with the status of every member of the blue collar union to know whether the same pattern holds for those workers. "Many were called back, but some may still be out there."

Most sanitation workers have probably not been rehired, he said, although some have returned to city service in other jobs.

The entire sanitation department was eliminated when the city switched to hiring a private contractor to collect garbage.

Grizey's initial comments came in answer to a question from Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman at last night's special Council meeting to discuss the city government management study conducted by consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget of Washington, D.C. He amplified them later at a reporter's request.

Serious dislocations

But, he said, Proposition 2½ has caused serious dislocations in people's work lives. Some who elected early retirement when their jobs were cut from the budget would otherwise have continued in public service. Some were unemployed for varying lengths of time before being recalled. Some were recalled to jobs they consider less desirable. And two clerical workers whose jobs were cut are back on temporary status.

The Cresap report's recommendations for consolidating several departments and relocating services between departments in City Hall would, if implemented, eliminate three clerical jobs.

Angela Bowerman, president of the clerical workers' union, Local 65, urged the Council to rely upon attrition if any jobs must be cut for lack of funds.

Allow bumping

She also urged, in the name of fairness, that the Council push for a change in state law to allow clerks to "bump" between departments.

As things now stand, she said, a worker with 12 or even 31 years' service could be forced to leave while another with one or two years' service remains on the payroll.

She explained that under Civil Service law, a worker can only displace a less-senior worker who reports to the same department head. The administrative departments in City Hall have small staffs, in some cases consisting of two or three clerks.

APR 15 1983

City Council votes 9-2 to accept Cresap report

By Judy Katz

The City Council voted 9-2 last night to accept the Cresap report in principle after defeating, on a voice vote, a motion by At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos to add the words, "with reservations."

The negative votes were cast by Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr. and Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters. At-large Councilor Joseph W. Ryan, who chaired the meeting because Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi came in late, had told Arlos his amendment was redundant because "acceptance in principal" implies that there are some reservations.

The action came at the close of a special Council meeting that kept Cresap, McCormick & Paget Vice President William G. Evans under cross-examination by councilors and department heads for more than three hours.

Evans told the Council that one common theme unites all the comments departments submitted disputing the Cresap report: "We don't want to do anything differently. And we don't want to eliminate any employees."

"You have this Proposition 2½ measure facing you," he continued. "Cresap, McCormick & Paget didn't pass that. The fact is that the primary costs of this Pittsfield city government are salaries and fringe benefits. There is no way to reduce costs substantially without reducing the number of employees."

What his Washington, D.C., management consulting firm had tried to do, he said, was to find ways to cut costs with the least adverse impact on services.

The Council chamber was stuffed with city workers and department heads who did not like the results. In writing and in four long Council meetings, they had raised objections to the Cresap report. Last night, Evans was asked to answer those objections.

In one case, his response was that the objector had a valid point. At the invitation of Stracuzzi, the president of the police union questioned Cresap's staffing calculations.

The firm based its report that the department could staff all patrols with 13 fewer officers on a "staffing factor" taken from a 1981 study of the police department. According to that factor, it takes 1.8 officers on the payroll to keep one on duty seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Vacation factor

The Cresap report also recommended replacing six officers with lower-paid civilians by giving civilians the job of handling communications. But last night, Evans said his firm did not envision that happening at once.

Union head Anthony J. Riello asked whether more officers would be needed if layoffs left more senior officers entitled to longer vacations and more days off.

That might make a difference, Evans said. The staffing factor "is easy to recalculate and we will."

In one other instance Evans and another member of the firm, Ted Becker, were stumped. Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman pointed out that they had removed meter coin collectors from the Department of Public Works and said the job should be done by the police department. But, she said, they had not said who, or what department, should maintain the meters.

Otherwise, Evans stuck to his guns. The questions ranged all over city government, but focused mainly on the Fire Department, snow plowing, and whether the consultants had spent enough time observing departments at work and interviewing workers.

The Cresap report recommended eliminating 33 firefighters, including a deputy chief, and eight Fire Department civilians. But it recommended doing it by idling equipment and reducing the rescue squad crew, not by closing fire stations.

Evans dismissed Fire Chief Joseph W. Coy's insistence that the only sound way to make such deep cuts is to close two fire stations as an example of the "Washington Monument syndrome."

Closing stations, he said, is not practical because "I don't think this Council will do that. I don't think the fire chief believes this Council will do that."

When the budget for the National Parks Service is cut, Evans said, the Washington Monument is immediately closed at 3 p.m. each day. Disappointed tourists are supplied with the name and phone number of their congressman and advised to express their displeasure.

"They never say," he continued, "that there are a half dozen people whose job is to pick up cigarette butts along the Chesapeake & Ohio canal. They make cuts that will cause a public outcry so they will not be cut."

By idling the pumper at the central station, he said, and assigning each of the outlying stations an arc of the central district to cover, the entire city has better coverage and response time to all areas is maintained.

The only other option, he continued, "is to ask your firefighters to work a 56 hour week like most other fire departments in this nation do, instead of a 42 hour week." Under that plan, a firefighter is on duty for 24 hours, living and sleeping in the station, and then off duty for 48. That way three shifts, rather than four, are needed.

Administrative Fire Deputy Richard E. Koscher, acting as chief because Coy is on vacation, asked specific questions about supplying water before the second pumper arrives, emergencies that need two ladder trucks and mustering the three men needed to operate the Jaws of Life.

Evans gave specific answers, advising new procedures, having other firefighters on the scene help out with the Jaws of Life and calling in off-duty firefighters to staff the reserve ladder when needed.

Hads seen snow

Before the debate turned to snowplowing, Stracuzzi asked Evans if it is true — as Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle said — that he had never seen snow before coming to Pittsfield.

Evans replied that he had seen a great deal of deep snow while stationed in Korea as a World War II draftee between 1945 and 1948.

Alfred Hebert, superintendent in the DPW's highway division, said that if the Cresap report is implemented it will take 36 hours to plow with the remaining operators.

Cresap consultant Ted Becker, taking over from Evans, said nothing in the recommendations would result in fewer plows on the streets; more drivers would simply have to be pulled from other divisions and departments.

That will no longer work, Hebert said. He informed the consultants that the union has decided "since the report came in" that their members will no longer work above their grade. Laborers will not drive. Drivers in one classification will not operate equipment that carries a higher classification.

The consultant's answer was to contract out more snowplowing. To the objection that it is hard to find willing private plows now, Evans replied that contractors usually respond to the marketplace. "Put specs out," he said. "See who bids."

Councilors told Evans that department after department had complained that the consultants did not spend enough time with them and that there were specific errors of fact in the report.

130 interviewed

Evans said 130 interviews were conducted with city employees. Not everyone was interviewed, he said, but many jobs are identical and the firm also had documents and figures supplied by the city and information from studies they had done elsewhere.

As for errors, "in some cases we were given misinformation," he said. In some cases the information is correct but the report is being misunderstood. And in others, he said, there are errors but they do not affect the recommendations.

APR 23 1983

One councilor favors 2½ override

By Judy Katz

Even if Mayor Charles L. Smith will not seek to use the Proposition 2½ override option being debated in the state Legislature — and he has said he will not — at least one city councilor will.

"I would initiate it," Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr. said yesterday. "I would feel it would be more beneficial to this community because of the real crunch we are reeling under."

The override provision, which faces debate in the House Monday, would allow city councils in Pittsfield and 10 other communities, rather than the voters, to decide to take two more years to bring taxes down to 2.5 percent of total property value. Proposition 2½ requires reaching the 2.5 percent level in the coming budget year.

That would halve the amount the communities, the only ones in the state still taxing at a rate higher than the permitted 2.5 percent, must trim from their tax levies in the 1983-1984 fiscal year.

For Pittsfield, that would mean reducing the levy by $1.6 million, based on Mayor Smith's preliminary budget, or by $500,000 if the expected effect of the current property revaluation is taken into account. Without the override, the cuts would be about $3.2 million and $1 million respectively.

Mayor Smith said earlier that he does not intend to pick up an override option. He said that the voters gave a clear mandate when they approve Proposition 2½ by an overwhelming majority in 1980 and that he has a responsibility and obligation to respect their wishes.

Bitter objections

Citizens for Limited Taxation and other pro-Proposition 2½ groups have objected bitterly to the override plan, because it gives councilors permission to slip Proposition 2½ fetters without a referendum vote. Under Proposition 2½, only the voters can approve exceptions to the law.

Six of eight city councilors contacted yesterday lined up on Smith's side of the issue, and a ninth — City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, who was out of town — had done so earlier.

But Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters said that if no other councilor petitions for an override, she may. She said she wants to avoid laying off city workers. When industries consider moving to a city, she said, she believes they look first for first-class fire protection, police protection and schools.

Chichetto also referred to the school budget. By delaying cuts, he said, "we would be better serving the School Department and in the long run the citizens."

Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman said those seeking more money for the schools could find the override idea attractive. She pointed out that the $500,000 it would restore to the property tax levy is about the amount needed to avoid closing Stearns and Pomeroy schools.

But, she said, because revaluation is expected to increase the amount Pittsfield can raise through taxes by about $2.2 million, "if we don't cut, people who expected to be paying lower taxes will end up paying higher taxes. I think we can live comfortably within Proposition 2½ guidelines," Cheever said. "And the mandate from the voters hasn't changed."

Among those who say they would go along with the mayor on the override issue were Ward 1 Councilor John R. O'Gara, Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr. and at-large councilors Joseph W. Ryan and James R. McCaffrey.

Some, agreeing with Mrs. Ausman, said taxpayers who believe they are entitled to a tax cut of about 15 percent next year will feel betrayed when they find their household and business property taxes going up instead.

'False issue'

But Ward 2 Councilor Kenneth G. Warren called that a false issue. Revaluation "will jack some people's taxes up whether we put off the budget cut or not," he said.

He said the real issue is voter approval. If an override appears desirable, once all the figures on state aid and property value increases are in, he said, he would want the voters, not the City Council, to make the decision.

Also, he said, "it looks like with aid and everything else, we may not need it. It's looking like we might not have to make gaping cuts." In that case, he added, "it might be better to get it over with and not prolong the agony."

APR 25 1983

Central county Chamber supports Cresap report

The 710-member Central Berkshire Chamber of Commerce has come out in support of management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget's blueprint for streamlining Pittsfield's government.

In a statement issued Saturday, the Chamber's board of directors urged Mayor Charles L. Smith and the City Council "to adopt, to the maximum extent possible, the recommendations of the Cresap, McCormick & Paget report" and called for "implementation of as many of the recommendations as possible as soon as possible."

The Chamber is the first major non-governmental group to take a public stand on the Cresap proposals. Almost all previous comment has come from department heads and city workers. With few exceptions, they oppose implementation.

The board said its stand in favor of change is based on the conclusions of a special task force. The task force agreed with the Washington, D.C., consultants' estimate that following the recommendations in their report could slice the city's budget by $2.1 million the first year "without a reduction in the quality of service."

The Cresap report covered all city functions except the schools. After that report was delivered to the mayor and Council, the consultants were commissioned to begin a companion $60,000 study of the School Department. The latter study is expected to be complete by June 15.

The task force recommended that "action concerning the school system should be delayed until completion of Cresap, McCormick & Paget's report on the school system."

The completed Cresap study of non-school departments, conducted at a cost of $96,000, calls for cutting 115 jobs from the city payroll and consolidating 22 agencies that report to the mayor into 14.

The Chamber of Commerce said it recognizes that some of the recommendations cannot be put into practice. But, it said, the mayor and Council should "support the conclusions . . . to the maximum extent possible," making whatever changes are necessary to adapt them to requirements in state law.

Some department heads have claimed that legal obstacles prevent implementation of specific recommendations. For example, the Cresap report suggested that birth, death and marriage records be maintained by the tax collector's, rather than the city clerk's office. The city clerk told the Council that would be illegal.

Raises, not roses

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

It has come to our attention that it is the custom at City Hall to "treat" all "the girls," regardless of their job titles or responsibilities, to lunch during National Secretaries Week. The Berkshire County Chapter of the National Organization for Women deplores this practice wherever it occurs. It is an insult to women in general, and especially to secretaries, who do vitally important work in both the public and private sectors.

If the goal of this observance is recognition of these workers, what is needed is *raises*, not "roses." Tokens or gestures are *not* adequate recognition for women. A living wage is the only appropriate recognition for a job well done.

BESS DILLMAN
LOIS ROOT

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APR 29 1983

The writers are coordinators for the Berkshire County NOW chapter.

MAY 2 1983

Audit raps city's handling of funds

By Judy Katz

The state has issued an audit report critical of Pittsfield's financial operations, and Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr. has called upon the city auditor to appear before the City Council with an explanation and a timetable for correcting the deficiencies it cites.

The report states that a series of defects in Pittsfield's money-handling methods create "a high risk of error or irregularity" and seriously jeopardize more than $1 million a year of federal revenue sharing income.

In one case — failure to either collect back taxes or foreclose on property forfeited for non-payment of taxes — the result is "a loss of revenue to the city," the auditors state. These outstanding "tax title" accounts, they say, amounted to about $500,000 on June 30, 1981.

The audit, performed by the state Department of Revenue's Bureau of Accounts, covers the 1981 fiscal year. The auditors' report lists about a dozen weaknesses that it says need to be corrected immediately because of the risks involved.

But many of the same defects were cited in the last formal audit, performed by an independent accounting firm in 1978.

City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro said last night that he has not yet had a chance to study the state report. It only recently arrived in his office, he said.

"We will have to respond point by point to Boston," he said, but because he is immersed in preparations for submitting the city budget, "it isn't going to have high priority."

Cheever filed a petition Friday that Sarro be asked to address each recommendation made in the report and furnish the Council with the implementation timetable. He also asked that the treasurer, director of administrative services and community development commissioner be invited to discuss portions of the report that involve their departments.

Cheever said last night that he is concerned because nothing appears to have been done to correct major weaknesses identified in the 1978 audit.

On the state auditors' list of deficiencies requiring quick action are failures to comply with federal regulations governing revenue sharing or to keep records that would enable the city to prove compliance. "Tests performed to ascertain compliance with the rules and regulations," the report states, "indicated that the city seriously jeopardizes continued receipt of these funds."

Revenue sharing traditionally provides almost half of the city's financial support for human services. It has also, for about the past decade, paid the bills for such things as street lighting, salt and sand, chemicals for the sewage treatment plant, road repairs and snow removal.

Discrepancy undetected

According to the state report, the city auditor does not reconcile the revenue sharing books with bank accounts or post interest when it is earned. As a result, a $153,000 discrepancy caused by unrecorded interest "went undetected since the last audit in 1978."

The 1978 audit complained of failure to record interest and reconcile accounts of city cash as well as revenue sharing. In 1978, the auditors tried to find the errors leading to discrepancies between the treasurer's and auditor's cash accounts. They finally threw up their hands after narrowing the difference to $65,912.

Major weaknesses cited in the 1981 audit include:

— Inadequate control over cash. Even though the city followed recommendations in the 1978 audit "to a point," the report on the present audit states that the books have not balanced since 1978 because of "inadequate reconciliation procedures and ledger control accounts." Instead, discrepancies have been carried forward from quarter to quarter and year to year. The $65,912 error has never been found, said City Treasurer Francis J. Condron.

The state auditors called for monthly analysis of cash accounts "in order that variances, as well as any possible irregularities, may be detected and corrected at the earliest possible time."

Sarro said he has instructed the staff of both his own and the treasurer's office to balance the books monthly. But, he said, "sometimes they don't get around to it."

To bring the city into compliance with state law, the audit report recommends that cash actually be counted and actual bank balances be reconciled at least once a year.

— Lack of adequate internal auditing to ensure that no bills presented to the city are fraudulent, unlawful or excessive, that purchases are appropriate and that money collected in other departments is turned over to the treasurer when it should be.

Sarro said some checks are made. But, he said, he has too few people on his staff to conduct more elaborate checkups.

— Lack of a purchasing department. Present methods, the report says, make it easy to split purchases to circumvent state laws requiring bids to be sought for major purchases, make it hard to check to see if "informal" rather than competitive bidding is justified for items bought frequently and increase the risk of improper purchases because the same people order goods and receive them.

Establishing a purchasing department was also recommended by Washington, D.C., management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget in their report on their $96,000 study of city government. Even before either the Cresap or audit reports was delivered, Mayor Charles L. Smith said he had decided a purchasing department is necessary as a result of an investigation of some Department of Public Works purchases from out-of-area suppliers.

— Lack of centralized personnel procedures. Under the system the city now uses, the report states, "it appears . . . improper additions to payrolls may be made."

The report characterizes a second, somewhat larger, group of deficiencies as important but adds that "immediate corrective action is not as necessary since assets are still reasonably safeguarded."

Failure to foreclose on tax-delinquent property falls into that category.

City's policy lenient

City Treasurer Condron said last night that while "we don't move as fast as we should," the city's policy has always been a lenient one. In some cases, he said, the owner does eventually pay up.

Also, he said, taking possession of the property often means going to court. In prior years, "it was always difficult getting the city solicitor to foreclose," he said, but the present city solicitor, Edward M. Reilly, is interested in getting it done and has begun to work on it.

The auditors discovered more than $5,000 in checks dating back to 1979 "and a small amount of cash" in the treasurer's vault. The money, they said, had never been entered on the books and its existence had never been reported.

Condron said it consisted of good-faith deposits required of bidders on some contracts, mainly during the two-year period between 1978, when the city hired a purchasing agent, and 1980, when it abolished the position.

On the advice of the auditors, Condron said, he deposited the money in the bank. Since he has not heard otherwise, he said, he assumes the overage checks were accepted and cleared.

MAY-10-1983

Mayor moves to revamp Pittsfield govt. structure

By Judy Katz

A major reorganization of city government, largely but not entirely following the recommendations of the Cresap report, is reflected in a sheaf of draft ordinances and a proposed special act to be submitted to the City Council tonight.

Among the changes Mayor Charles L. Smith is seeking are:

— Eliminating the Department of Parks and Recreation.

— Creating a Department of Community Services to provide staff and services for the Park Commission, Conservation Commission, Council on Aging and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

— Replacing the Department of Public Buildings with a Department of Maintenance that will be responsible for all public buildings, city grounds and vehicles, including grounds now maintained by the Park Department and vehicles now maintained by the Department of Public Works.

— Creating a Department of Public Utilities to take over management of what are now the water, sewer and drain divisions of the DPW.

— Creating a Department of Administration and Finance to coordinate all city financial activities.

— Upgrading the senior buildings inspector to department head status, with power to appoint the inspectors of buildings, plumbing, wires, gas and petroleum and the sealer of weights and measures and responsibility for supervising their activities.

Mayor Smith said he has incorporated the changes covered by the ordinances into the budget he is preparing for submission to the City Council. The budget will also reflect some but not all of the Cresap report recommendations for trimming the fire, police and health departments, he said.

Smith said he wants the Council to approve the ordinances and special act as soon as possible so he can begin to advertise for candidates for the positions created by the reorganization. All the jobs will be thrown open to outside applicants, he said.

Putting all inspectors under the senior building inspector is a major departure from the organization recommended by Washington, D.C., management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget. After completing a $96,000 study of all non-school city departments, they called for putting the inspectors — including the building inspector — under the supervision of the Fire Department's inspection division.

A minor departure is placing the Conservation Commission, which now has no assigned staff support, into the new Department of Community Services and leaving the Veterans Services Department out. The Cresap report did not mention the all-volunteer commission. It called for putting veterans services under the community services umbrella.

The new Department of Administration and Finance, under the proposed ordinance, would be organized along the lines envisioned by the Cresap report. It would include the tax collector's, treasurer's, accountant's (at present, city auditor), assessors', purchasing and administrative services offices.

But the mayor would continue to appoint all those department heads. The new department would be supervised by "the mayor or his designee." A separate proposed ordinance gives the mayor the power to appoint an "assistant to the mayor for administration and finance" who will serve at his pleasure rather than for a fixed term.

At present, each department head is the official "appointing authority" for his or her own Civil Service staff. As a result, staff members cannot "bump" less senior workers in other related offices if budget restrictions force layoffs.

The proposed ordinances give the mayor the power to appoint all employees within the Department of Administration and Finance, thus demolishing the interoffice barriers to bumping.

The special act, to be forwarded to the Legislature in Boston, amends the city charter to add or substitute new department head names for old. The additions are the commissioner of public utilities — whose term of office would be five years — the director of maintenance, the building commissioner and the director of community services.

The substitution is "city accountant" for city auditor. Under the proposed reorganization, the mayor would appoint an assistant for administration and finance at an annual salary of $30,000. The duties now set by ordinance for the auditor would fall to the city accountant.

At the same time, the reference to a commissioner of public welfare, obsolete since the state took over administration of the welfare system, would be deleted.

Revising the roster of officials requires the approval of a majority of the voters. The question, "Shall the method of appointment, terms, powers and duties of certain enumerated officers be amended?" would appear on the November ballot.

The Cresap report recommended eliminating the Fire Department's communications center and consolidating fire and police communications in the Police Department. It also suggested using civilians rather than police officers as communications operators.

Smith announced earlier that he wants to take a different tack. He proposed turning both fire and police emergency calls over to the county communications network.

Elimination of jobs

Scrapping the Park Department will eliminate the job of superintendent of parks and recreation, now held by Vincent J. Hebert, and probably other high-level department jobs as well. The exact number would depend upon the eventual staff assigned to the Department of Community Services.

The Park Commission appoints the superintendent of parks and recreation. Under the new organizational plan, the commission would not have the authority to appoint any department head. The director of community services would be appointed by the mayor.

While the Cresap report called for changing the way ambulance calls are answered but keeping responsibility for the ambulance service in the Police Department, Smith said yesterday that he would prefer to get the city out of the ambulance business altogether. He said he will recommend soliciting bids for ambulance service from private firms.

MAY 11 1983

Smith's govt. reorganization plan is sidetracked, at least for moment

By Judy Katz

Mayor Charles L. Smith's government reorganization package was shunted onto a siding last night by an 8-3 City Council vote to refer it to the Committee of the Whole.

The package contained nine ordinances and a charter change, and "I needed every one of them to implement the budget I will present in a couple of days," Mayor Smith said after the vote, adding, with bitterness in his voice, "I expected it. It's an election year."

The mayor said he plans to forward the budget, which incorporates a government shakeup that blends Cresap, McCormick & Paget city government management study recommendations and his own ideas, to the Council late Friday.

The referral motion, made by At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos, specifies that a Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled "at the earliest convenience." But no date was set.

Councilors' objections to the changes fell into three main categories.

Some, like Arlos, complained that the new lineup would create more, rather than fewer, high-level jobs. At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey objected to departures from the Cresap recommendations. Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton declared that the Council needs more time to study the proposed ordinances.

The charter change, which would have to be submitted to the voters in November, basically alters the list of officials the mayor appoints at the start of his term to include the new titles of city accountant (replacing the city auditor), director of maintenance (replacing the superintendent of public buildings), commissioner of public utilities, director of community services and buildings commissioner.

The ordinances create the new Department of Public Utilities, to take over operation of the water and sewer divisions of the present Department of Public Works; the Department of Community Services, which will take over some of the duties of the present Parks Department and include the Council on Aging, Conservation Commission and Retired Senior Volunteer Program; the Buildings Department, placing the now-autonomous inspectors under the supervision of a new commissioner, the Department of Maintenance, which will take over the municipal garage from the Department of Public Works and parks maintenance from the Parks Department, and the Department of Administration and Finance.

Arlos pointed to the new post of buildings commissioner and demanded whether, if the senior building inspector becomes a department head, he will get a corresponding increase in pay.

The Department of Administration and Finance is not acceptable, he said, because "you don't eliminate any chiefs."

Under Smith's plan, all the present financial department heads would remain except the present city auditor, who would be replaced by an assistant to the mayor. The Cresap report recommended having the tax collector take over the treasurer's job.

McCaffrey, who said he wanted "to hear from the people — John Citizen and Jane Citizen" before voting on the package, demanded explanations of other deviations from the Cresap recommendations.

The report called for putting all inspectors under the fire inspection captain rather than creating a new department head and cutting some jobs in the department.

Smith hedged about the job cuts. He said he hadn't decided yet. But if the jobs are in the budget when he submits it to the Council, he said, the Council has the power to cut them out.

As for the decision to seek a buildings commissioner, Smith said each inspector is now, in effect, a department head and "it doesn't make sense to me to have a captain in the Fire Department supervise what are really department heads."

He had not followed the recommendation to give the building inspector the code enforcement inspector's duties, he said, because of legal obstacles and because the code enforcement inspector's salary could be taken from the budget without eliminating the position. He said it would be paid through the Community Development Block Grant.

Smith told the Council that if it feels any present department head's responsibilities have diminished under the new organization, it can reduce that official's salary when it considers the budget.

He also declared that the new Department of Administration and Finance was created only to comply with two desires previously expressed by the Council.

"It had nothing to do with Cresap," Smith said, later repeating the statement. "There were two reasons and two reasons only."

Those, he said, were to make it possible to shift people between offices at peak times and to allow senior workers faced with layoff to bump less-senior workers in other offices.

"We tried to follow what this body [the Council] wanted regardless of the Cresap report," Smith said.

House approves Truman historic site

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House gave final congressional approval yesterday to a bill declaring the Harry S. Truman home in Independence, Mo., a national historic site.

MAY 11 1983

PITTSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR
1983-1984

MAY 10 1983

1983 September 18

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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1983 October 20

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1984 February 16

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1984 March 22

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1983 November 19

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1983 December 16

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1984 April 16

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1984 May 22

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1984 June 16

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TOTAL — 185 days

*Dismissal at noon

September 6 — Teacher Orientation

Includes 5 days for emergency weather conditions. If these days are not used, schools will close on June 15 (noon dismissal).



MAY 14 1983

Protest

Participants in Park Square demonstration against U.S. policy in El Salvador were among 200 who turned out April 30. They are listening to a guitarist sing about the problem.

City Council hearing on May 19 to take up budget, Cresap issues

The City Council has scheduled a triple-header public hearing next Thursday night, May 19, to hear public comments on the Cresap, McCormick & Paget city management study, get public opinion on the city budget and listen to a rebuttal of the Cresap report's Fire Department recommendations by an expert secured by the firefighters' union.

The time and place have not yet been set. City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi said the City Council chamber is already booked that evening for a utility hearing.

The date was dictated by the availability of both the fire union's spokesman and William G. Evans, vice president of the Washington, D.C., Cresap McCormick & Paget consulting firm.

City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi Tuesday suggested combining the Fire Department hearing with the public hearing that traditionally precedes City Council consideration of the budget. The third item, the public hearing on the Cresap report, was added in response to a petition from At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey.

McCaffrey said that while each affected city department has had a chance to present its views on the Cresap report to the Council, the ordinary citizen has not.

Estimating that the changes would save the city about $2.1 million a year, the consultants recommended trimming the number of departments that report to the mayor from 22 to 14 and eliminating 115 city jobs.

Mayor Charles L. Smith is pushing for some of the changes but has rejected others.

The consultants called for eliminating one police captain, 12 police officers, and eventually replacing six other officers with civilian communications operators. Smith said Tuesday he will maintain the present number of police officers.

Plan for inspectors

The consultants called for putting the autonomous inspectors — such as the building, wire and plumbing inspectors and the sealer of weights and measures — under the supervision of the Fire Department's inspection division captain.

Instead, Smith wants to elevate the senior building inspector to department head status and place the other inspectors under him. He did not give a clear answer Tuesday when the Council asked whether conferring the new status would result in paying a higher salary.

The Cresap report, saying the divisions were overstaffed, called for eliminating one wire inspector and one inspector of weights and measures. It also recommended transferring responsibility for state sanitary code inspections to the building inspector and eliminating the code enforcement inspector from the Health Department.

Instead, Smith plans to eliminate the code enforcement inspector's salary from the budget without eliminating the job. The salary will be paid through the Community Development Block Grant. He has not said whether he plans to cut the other two inspector jobs.

The consultants recommended consolidating both fire and police communications in the Police Department. The mayor said he has cut the fire communications staff and office from the budget but will contract with the county communications system to handle both police and fire emergency calls.

The Council has the power to cut the budget further, but not to add to it. That means that if the fire communications section is not in the budget, the Council cannot put it back. But at the request of At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos, the Council voted Tuesday to invite the fire and police chiefs to give their opinions of the change at the next Council meeting anyway.

MAY 12 1983

Council will get official look at city's new budget Thursday

MAY 16 1983

The city budget will be formally presented to the City Council Thursday night at a public hearing called to solicit public comments on both the budget and the government management study prepared by Cresap, McCormick & Paget.

Originally, an expert selected by the firefighter's union to rebut the Fire Department recommendations in the Cresap report was also scheduled to appear. But that has been postponed, Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi said yesterday. He said that the union's speaker, consultant David McCormack, cannot come Thursday.

Gerard E. Miller, president of the firefighters' union, said he only had about a week's notice of the meeting and that was insufficient for McCormack to clear the date.

McCormack, Miller said, is a former New York City deputy fire chief, a consultant to the National Fire Protection Association and a former superintendent of the National Fire Academy.

Although the budget presentation will be made Thursday, Stracuzzi said the document will be distributed to Council members for study early this week. It includes budgets for all city departments except the School Department, whose budget will be published separately.

Distribution was expected Friday, but the budget was not ready. City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro said last-minute changes caused the delay.

Sarro said that after the changes are entered into the city's computer, the revised version has to be reviewed by Mayor Charles L. Smith before it can be distributed.

Smith has said that he is incorporating about 80 percent of the government reorganization recommendations made by management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget of Washington, D.C., into the budget. What city workers are waiting anxiously to find out is how closely the budget will reflect the Cresap report's recommendations to eliminate jobs.

The consultants claim that Pittsfield can provide about the same level of government services with 115 fewer employees.

The mayor has already announced that 19 of those 115 jobs are safe. He has said he will not implement the recommendations to cut 12 officers and one captain from the police force and, eventually, replace six more officers with civilian communications operators.

But Smith, who wants to use the county communications system for fire and police emergency calls, told the Council last week that the Fire Department communications section has been cut from the budget. The Cresap report recommended folding it into the police system.

Miller, who called the communications section "the nerve center of the Fire Department," said "I can't believe [the mayor] would strike out that."

Pittsfield's fire communications system is superior to the county network, he said. When a spring snowstorm hit the county late last month, he said, the county system was knocked out but Pittsfield's kept operating.

Smith budget chops 83 non-school jobs

MAY 18 1983

By Judy Katz

Mayor Charles L. Smith distributed a fiscal 1983-1984 budget yesterday that eliminates 83 full-time non-school jobs — including 12 police officers and 19 firefighters — and incorporates all but two of consultant Cresap, McCormick & Paget's departmental reorganization recommendations.

The $40.4 million budget, about $1 million larger than last year, will be formally presented to the City Council Thursday night. The Council can cut the budget further, but not add to it.

Of the total, $17.3 million is allotted to the School Department. That is $220,000 more than last year, but about $500,000 less than the department said it needs to fund the same services as last year.

Mayor Smith said 45 school jobs will be lost. Earlier, Superintendent of Schools John C. Davis said 21 jobs would be cut due to enrollment declines even if the department received the $17.8 million it sought.

"As much as I would like to consider something more for the schools, at this time, it doesn't seem possible without destroying other city departments essential to the taxpayers," Smith said.

The mayor said earlier he would honor requests from Gov. Michael S. Dukakis and Lt. Gov. John Kerry to retain all police officers. He tried, he said yesterday. But he said that when he sat down for the last time with his budget advisers on Thursday, he found it could not be done.

"I just couldn't find the money," he said.

Police Chief Stanley Stankiewicz said he broke the news personally to about half his force at the afternoon shift-change roll call. "It's disappointing," Stankiewicz said. "I thought I would be able to keep my force intact. We're already down 10 [because of unfilled vacancies], and now it's 12 more."

Stankiewicz said four officers may retire by July 1, the start of the fiscal year, but "that's eight out the door," including the three women officers who just graduated from the police academy and are in their first week of on-the-job training.

Smith said his sharpest break from the recommendations of the $96,000 Cresap, McCormick & Paget city management study was his decision to keep a crew on the fire pumper at the Columbus Avenue station. That, he said, accounts for firefighter layoffs being held to 19 rather than the 32 suggested in the Cresap report.

Fire Chief Joseph W. Coy said yesterday that he fought hard to keep that pumper because he considers it essential. "I was glad to see my advice was followed," he said.

"We've got some life hazard problems in the central business district" because of housing for the elderly and other apartments, he said. He cited the recent fire in the Bradford Arms apartment house for the elderly as an example.

Coy said all fire stations will remain open. Of the 19 jobs cut, he said, only two are likely to be vacated by attrition. The eight least-senior firefighters took the jobs early this year with the understanding that they would probably face layoff within months.

The $40.4 million budget, up from last year's $39.4 million, will come from property tax revenue, other revenues, an estimated $17.3 million in state aid and $500,000 in free cash. Free cash is budgeted money that remains unspent at the close of the fiscal year.

Actual expenditures will be about $43.6 million, because some expenses (such as those paid with an estimated $1.2 million in federal revenue sharing) are not in the budget.

Budgeted revenue includes $20.9 million from property taxes rather than the $18.3 million factored in before a state-required biennial property revalution.

Smith said the extra money hangs on state approval of a new $837 million property value total. That is up about $100 million from last year.

Higher total values mean more taxing power because under Proposition 2½, Pittsfield must cut property taxes down to 2.5 percent of total valuation this year. If the total valuation goes up $100 million, the city can raise $2.5 million more without exceeding the 2.5 percent limit.

The mayor gave several reasons for the paradoxical wedding of severe cuts and higher city government spending: wage increases in union contracts; a 5 percent increase in cost of materials due to inflation; an increase of about $500,000 in medical insurance costs, due to rate hikes and to a 20 percent increase in the city's share of premium payments, and increases in such items as pension costs and workmen's compensation.

The budget contains some surprises. Mayor Smith expanded the city solicitor's job from part-time to full-time and doubled the salary from $15,000 to $30,000. And he cut out the commissioner of public works's traditional $1,000 extra stipend for serving as moth superintendent.

As a result of reorganization within the budget, the 22 departments Cresap, McCormick & Paget recommended consolidating into 14 have been consolidated into 16. Smith said he showed his budget to William G. Evans, vice president of Cresap, McCormick & Paget, and asked Evans what percentage of the firm's recommendations it incorporated. "He said 85 percent," Smith said.

Ordinance changes and a new title list in the city charter are also needed for the shakeup. Smith submitted the ordinances and special act to the Council, but the Council referred them to the Committee of the Whole for study.

The only deviations from the consultants' recommendations are keeping Veterans Services as a separate department — a status required by state law, the mayor said — and merging the construction inspectors into a new department rather than assigning them to the Fire Department.

But Smith did not cut personnel as deeply, or always in the same places, as the Cresap report recommended. The report said 115 jobs could be eliminated.

The mayor decided to keep an assistant wire inspector and an assistant inspector of weights and measures. He said they are needed to support business growth. Delays in inspections, he said, "can be terribly costly to businessmen and contractors if they hold up a job."

Parks Department

In the reduced Parks Department, budgeted as part of a new Department of Community Service, Smith stayed within the outlines of the Cresap report but did not paint by the numbers.

The jobs of superintendent of parks and recreation and director of the Council on Aging are gone, as the report suggested, in favor of a single director of community services post. That carries a salary of $28,500.

But at the lower level, Smith did the opposite of what the consultants recommended by keeping the director of recreation slot and bouncing the lower-paid recreation supervisor.

And where the Cresap report said the city should keep the summer playground program for handicapped children but put all other programs on a fee basis, Smith has kept money in most programs but eliminated the special-needs playground.

A purchasing agent with an administrative assistant have been added to the budget. But where the Cresap report recommended a $25,000 base salary for the purchasing agent, the mayor has budgeted $20,000.

Smith cut 10 jobs from the Health Department — an assistant bacteriologist, a dental hygienist, a clerk, and the five nurses and two health aides that make up the school nurse program. He did not adopt the consultants' suggestion that the city close its laboratory and buy laboratory services from private firms.

Plan for communications

The Cresap report recommended consolidating the fire and police communications operations in the Police Department. Earlier, the mayor said he planned to eliminate the fire communications system but hook up with the county network for both fire and police emergency calls.

He provided enough money for the fire communications operation in the budget to last 10 months. Within that time, he said, the changeover should be complete. But he reopened the possibility of shifting communications to the police rather than the county.

Fire Chief Coy said he considers the plan "on hold" for now. The Council plans to discuss the communications issue, he said, and may have new ideas. "I know the mayor wants to look into it very thoroughly," he said.

Editorials

MAY 18 1983

The mayor's sound budget

After two years of Proposition 2½ in which the bulk of Pittsfield's budget cuts have come out of the hide of its School Department, the mayor in the third year of 2½ will be demanding economies from some departments that have been largely spared them so far. To the extent that this budget was a test of Mayor Charles L. Smith's willingness to make politically difficult decisions, he has passed with flying colors.

He really didn't have that much of a choice. While higher state aid and the increased tax base produced by property revaluation allowed the mayor to boost spending this year by $1 million to $40.4 million, increases in built-in costs left him with little fiscal maneuvering room. Wage hikes, a bone-jarring $500,000 increase in health insurance for city employees and a 10 percent rise in the city's share of pension costs are some of the factors that obliged the mayor to give the Cresap municipal-efficiency study a closer and more sympathetic look than studies of this kind usually receive.

In the end, he adopted what a Cresap vice president himself has characterized as about 85 percent of the report's recommendations. While the consultants suggested 115 layoffs, the mayor held the total to 83 in the non-school departments. For several of his departures from Cresap recommendations, he has come up with plausible reasons; in other areas, the motivation for not following the consultants' advice appears murky. In any case, the report's blueprint for efficient city government will still be around in future years if further changes are in order.

As regrettable as layoffs of any city employees are, the one alternative to pursuing the economies that Cresap proposed was something that the mayor wisely avoided: forcing the schools to go through a third year of drastic contraction. The School Department is not pampered, by any means. In the mayor's final budget, the schools are slated for $17.3 million, about $500,000 less than the amount that Superintendent of Schools John C. Davis estimated would be necessary to fund this year's level of services next year. This will cause 45 School Department layoffs, the mayor said, and will, presumably, compel the closing of Stearns and Pomeroy schools and the transfer of their students to Crosby.

One of the reasons that this budget was such a test of the mayor's mettle is that the City Council cannot add on to his spending plan; it can only make cuts. The test of the council members will be in another area: whether they resist the temptation to make mischief with the ordinance changes that the mayor's Cresap-inspired reorganization of several city departments will require.

Some amendments of the mayor's plan may be in order, but they should be approached in respectful awareness that the Cresap report and Mayor Smith's slightly modified incorporation of it in the budget have put the city in a good position to weather both 1984 and the years down the road when 2½ will continue to limit city spending.

MAY 19 1983

Councilors show mixed reaction to mayor's budget

By Judy Katz

At-large City Councilor James R. McCaffrey hailed Mayor Charles L. Smith's revolutionary city budget yesterday as "an act of statesmanship" that will have his full support, but some of his colleagues are less enthusiastic.

Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi questioned the wisdom of pegging the salaries of a clutch of new department heads at $30,000 apiece. That may be more than some of the jobs warrant and not enough to attract competent candidates for others, he said.

Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman criticized the makeup of the new Department of Community Services as an "Alice in Wonderland" perversion of recommendations in the Cresap report.

Several councilors said they have to study the document further before commenting. But one of them, Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters, said she has some reservations. "I have some questions for the department heads," she said. "I want to ask them first before I commit myself."

McCaffrey said he has no reservations. "I think Smith is the best mayor the city ever had — on the strength of this alone," he declared.

The budget shifts money and responsibilities between departments and consolidates 22 departments into 16. It generally follows the recipe provided by the Washington, D.C., consulting firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget after its $96,000 study of city government management.

McCaffrey has consistently called for total implementation of the consultants' recommendations.

"I compliment the mayor," he said. "It's an outstanding job. I just hope the Council doesn't play politics with it."

But Mrs. Ausman said that the budgeted version of the new Department of Community Services is only a mirror image of what the Cresap report envisioned. "It's almost like Alice in Wonderland," she said.

The Department of Community Services would contain the Council on Aging, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the recreation activities of what is now the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Conservation Commission.

The Cresap report called for abolishing the post of superintendent of parks and recreation. Mrs. Ausman said it also called for expanding the responsibilities of the director of the Council on Aging to include supervision of recreation programs. The agency's director already supervises RSVP. The all-volunteer Conservation Commission has always been unsupervised.

A different change

Instead, Mayor Smith has abolished the Council on Aging director's job. Mrs. Ausman charged that the parks superintendent's job has been kept, but with a new title — director of community services — and a salary about $5,000 higher.

The consultants advised eliminating the recreation director's post and keeping the recreation supervisor. Instead, Mrs. Ausman noted, the $15,000 supervisor's job has been abolished and the $24,000 director's job is still in the budget.

One observer, who asked not to be identified, charged that the staff changes reflect sex discrimination. Of five professional-level positions in the old departments, three are held by men and two by women. The Cresap report called for eliminating two now held by men. Both positions cut from the budget are held by women.

Mrs. Ausman also objected to the mayor's decision to keep the assistant wire inspector and assistant sealer of weights and measures in the budget. The Cresap report said that those departments are overstaffed and that the jobs should be eliminated.

"No one ever convinced me that we need those jobs full-time," she said.

Council President Stracuzzi said it will probably take more than a $30,000 salary to attract a first-rate director for the new Department of Administration and Finance and more than $20,000 to get a top-notch purchasing agent.

Full-time solicitor?

Mrs. Ausman and McCaffrey both opposed one change incorporated in the budget but not covered in the Cresap report — expanding the city solicitor's job from part-time to full-time.

"I don't want to pay those fringes," McCaffrey said, and Mrs. Ausman commented, "It's one of those things that sounds good but doesn't work out in actual practice. I don't know if we should create a job that someone who wants to retire would apply for."

The city has tried a variety of combinations in the solicitor's office over the past three years. First, there was a part-time solicitor with a full-time assistant.

Then the Council approved hiring a full-time solicitor with a full-time assistant in response to a dramatic increase in city legal business.

But it would not accept the mayor's choice for solicitor or the increasing cost of keeping a full-time assistant. The ordinance was changed to specify two part-timers.

A majority of the councilors argued that the only way to get energetic and competent legal service at salaries the city was willing to pay would be to offer part-time jobs and allow the solicitors to continue their own private practices.

MAY 26 1983

Council indicates support for trio of govt. changes

By Judy Katz

The City Council, sitting as a Committee of the Whole, took two hours last night to recommend that ordinances embodying three revolutionary changes in government structure receive preliminary approval at its next regular meeting.

Two — the ordinances establishing a new Department of Administration and Finance directed by an assistant to the mayor and those creating a new Department of Community Services — passed with amendments after protracted debate. The third, establishment of a new Department of Public Utilities, passed as submitted, also after protracted debate.

All still face two Council votes at regular meetings before final adoption.

The reorganization debate was supposed to be an appetizer before last night's main course, the first of the annual series of public hearings on the city budget. The budget menu consisted of the new finance and administration offices — treasurer, assessor, tax collector, accounting, purchasing and administrative services.

At 9:45, with the Department of Community Services ordinances still under discussion, Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi invited comments on the reorganization from the floor. City Clerk-Treasurer Francis J. Condron, waiting for the hearing on his budget, responded, "I want to go home."

Apologizing to the department heads, Stracuzzi said he had no way of predicting how long the reorganization debate would last and rescheduled the budget hearings for June 2 at 8 p.m.

The reorganization amendments that passed would require Council confirmation of the director of the finance department and remove the Conservation Commission from the aegis of the Department of Community Services.

But the intensity and tenor of the debate suggests that the journey to adoption will be perilous for all three changes.

Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman argued vigorously against establishment of the Department of Public Utilities, which would comprise the water and sewer divisions of the present Department of Public Works.

Mrs. Ausman, who works closely with Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle as chairman of the Council's Public Works Committee, said he told her that the change would make six water and sewer workers who now plow snow unavailable for that purpose.

She was not swayed by assurances from Director of Administrative Services Lawrence A. Grizey Jr. that neither union contracts nor Civil Service rules bar those workers from plowing if the divisions are severed from public works.

With Doyle listening from the back of the room, At-large Councilors Peter G. Arlos and James R. McCaffrey also opposed the change. Arlos called for the status quo. McCaffrey suggested splitting off the water department but leaving the sewer division with Doyle.

Mrs. Ausman objected strenuously to the way Mayor Charles L. Smith set up the community services department.

She charged that "the two people Cresap recommended eliminating [were] kept on [by the mayor] because they had political connections. There's no way to get around it."

The two are Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert and Director of Recreation John Marchesi. Hebert came forward to say he is definitely interested in the Director of Community Services job and believes he is capable of handling it.

Mrs. Ausman said that following the Cresap recommendation that the director of the Council on Aging supervise the new setup would not leave Hebert in the cold. He could bump down to head of recreation, she said.

She complained bitterly that the two jobs held by women — both recommended for retention by the Cresap report rather than the two now held by men actually retained — were eliminated instead. "I think this is a sham," she said.

MAY 20 1983

City Councilors show support for school budget compromise

By Linda Carman

The City Council has endorsed Mayor Charles L. Smith's proposal to try pinching enough pennies to keep Crosby Middle and Pomeroy schools open.

The council endorsement was in the form of a consensus, not a counted vote, and it came during Mayor Smith's formal presentation of the fiscal 1984-85 budget.

The actual presentation of the $40.4 million budget, about $1 million larger than last year, took nearly two hours in the packed Council chambers.

But although departments scheduled to be reduced in line with the Cresap, McCormick & Paget city management study were well represented, most appeared to be postponing their remarks on the budget until their particular departments are considered in eight to 10 hearings scheduled over the next month.

More than half those in attendence during the presentation left before the hearing that followed the presentation, and only two groups spoke in protest. They were the Council on Aging, which objected to the elimination of Andrea G. Pensivy's position as director of the Senior Center, and the Fire Department, which maintained that public safety would be jeopardized by eliminating 19 positions.

The mayor's school budget compromise involves "cutting corners and pinching pennies" in all city accounts, not just the School Department, to scrape together an extra $265,000. By doing so, Crosby Middle and Pomeroy schools could be kept open for an additional year.

Council support for pursuing the mayor's compromise means that recommendations of a committee formed by Superintendent of Schools John C. Davis regarding school reorganization would be postponed for another year. Although Pomeroy and Crosby would be spared, Stearns School is still scheduled for closing.

Councilor at-large Peter G. Arlos asked if the proposal might not just "prolong the agony."

"Is it cost-effective to spend a quarter of a million dollars for a year's grace?" he asked.

But the mayor rejoined that closing Crosby would overcrowd the school's other two junior high schools, which, with youngsters that age, could cause more problems.

Communications

In line with the Cresap report, the mayor recommended consolidating the fire and police communications operations in the Police Department. That marks a change from his original recommendation, which was to handle those calls through the county communications network.

Last night, Police Chief Stanley Stankiewicz gave his approval, saying the police system could easily handle the additional calls. Both Stankiewicz and Fire Chief Joseph W. Coy were scheduled to speak on a petition by Arlos, recommending the use of the police system. Arlos also recommended putting a police sergeant out in front in the station to deal with people rather than having the desk behind two doors. Stankiewicz said that move is planned.

Fire Chief Joseph W. Coy said he considers the county system inadequate to handle city fire calls, since it was designed to receive alarms from the smaller towns. Coy said he is concerned about changing the system. But responding to one of Coy's concerns, the mayor said that street cards containing information about hazardous buildings, hydrants or what have you, would be updated by whoever maintains the communications system.

The mayor has allowed 10 months for the changeover of the system.

Reorganization contemplated under the Smith budget would result in the 22 city departments being consolidated into 16, rather than the 14 recommended by Cresap. An estimated 85 percent of Cresap's recommendations are incorporated in the new budget.

Ordinance changes

These will require ordinance changes, which are scheduled for discussion Wednesday. On June 1, the Council will consider the revenue-sharing budget, and on June 21, the School Department budget. That date will presumably allow for inspection of a Cresap study of the school department scheduled for completion June 15.

During the review of the police budget, Arlos suggested eliminating money for training in police science in order to retain more police officers.

And in his presentation of the community services items, Smith said that the special needs playground had been omitted from the budget by an oversight. He asked the Council to help him restore that money.

In that department, Smith did the opposite of the Cresap recommendations by keeping the director of recreation but eliminating the lower-paid recreation supervisor.

During the hearing, Odessa Daoust, secretary of the Council on Aging, said that that group Wednesday had unanimously gave a vote of confidence to Ms. Pensivy for her "outstanding work" as director of the Senior Center and asked that the mayor keep her position full-time. Eliminating that position, as well as that of superintendent of parks and recreation, was part of the Cresap recommendation. Instead, a single director of community services would be paid $28,500.

Speaking on behalf of the Fire Department, Lt. James Tobin argued that every building lost reduces the tax base. The elimination of 19 positions would result in the loss of younger firemen, Tobin said, asserting that the job, considered the most hazardous occupation, is "a young man's job."

City reorganization pits friends against each other for same job

By Donna B. Mattoon

Mrs. Andrea S. Pensivy, director of the Council on Aging, and Vincent J. Hebert, superintendent of parks and recreation, have both submitted applications to the mayor for the proposed new position of director of community services.

Both stand to lose their current job in favor of a single director of community services if the City Council approves the ordinance in the mayor's new reorganization plan that would establish the Department of Community Services.

Hebert announced at Thursday's City Council meeting that he was indeed a candidate for the director's post, and Mrs. Pensivy confirmed last night that she has applied as well.

While she said she is reluctant to comment on the situation before Tuesday's public hearing on the budget, Mrs. Pensivy said the impending competition places her "in a rough position."

Hebert was her boss for 10 years before she took the job with the Council on Aging five years ago, she said. "I started off under him," she said of Hebert, and added that they have remained close friends ever since.

Got formal notice

Mrs. Pensivy said she received formal notice this week that she may soon lose her job with the Council on Aging.

But according to Ralph J. Froio, the formal notice was "just a formality," prompted by the mayor's 1983-84 budget proposal that would eliminate 83 full-time jobs, including Mrs. Pensivy's.

"It doesn't mean anything yet," Froio said last night of the notification. "We will be forced to let her go if there is no money, but we feel we have a good argument to keep her."

That argument will be presented Tuesday night during the series of public hearings on the city budget. Just exactly what Froio intends to say will remain a secret until then, he said.

But Froio hinted that he may petition heavily against passage of the ordinance that would create the new Department of Community services.

In the meantime, Froio said that petitions are now being circulated on Mrs. Pensivy's behalf by members of the Council on Aging. In addition, she has received a unanimous vote of confidence by the council's board, he said.

The proposed Department of Community Services would provide staff and services for the Park Commission, Council on Aging, Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Veteran Services.

The ordinance creating the new department will require two Council votes at regular meetings before final adoption. If the ordinance fails to pass, Froio said, he will go back to the mayor and request that Mrs. Pensivy's job be refunded.

"She has been a superb administrator," Froio said of Mrs. Pensivy.

MAY 28 1983

Smith finds $450,000 for budget 'wish list'

JUN 1 1983

By Judy Katz

The City Council approved Mayor Charles L. Smith's $342,000 economic development package last night after Smith came up with a $450,000 ransom.

City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi masterminded deferral of a Council vote on the package last week. He made it clear that the development funds were hostage for release of enough money to save high-priority city workers' jobs.

Over the intervening days, the mayor huddled with Stracuzzi, several other councilors and City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro and found $450,000 in the budget that could be used to establish a "wish list." That is the device the mayor and Council invented when Proposition 2½ rewrote the budgeting rule book so budgets are fleshed out from the bare bones, instead of being trimmed like fat-farm clients.

In the wish-list ritual, the Council sets priorities and tells the mayor how it would like to see unplanned-for revenue used. The mayor (who so far has largely accepted the Council's priorities) agrees to pretty much take the Council's advice.

Some $322,000 of the wish list money comes from the Water Department, which relies on water revenues, not the general fund, to pay its bills. Sarro, pressed by the mayor and councilors, discovered — as Smith put it last night — that "the Water Department owes the city $322,000."

The department, Sarro said, had not been charged for its share of city debt, fringe benefits and other fixed costs last year.

The remaining $132,000 is money earmarked for road work that Smith decided can be reallocated for other purposes.

Stracuzzi has stated that his goal is to prevent Police Department personnel cuts. He said private Council briefings by Police Chief Stanley Stankiewicz convinced him cuts would jeopardize the public.

But At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos said last night he wants the $450,000 "shared equally" by all departments. Put back a couple of police officers, he said, a couple of firefighters, a couple of school nurses.

Arlos twitted his colleagues, reminding them that they had supported hiring consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget to recommend government efficiencies while he had not. "Any funds you appropriate for personnel, you're undermining their recommendations," Arlos said. "They said these people were surplus . . . That's what you paid them $96,000 for."

Stracuzzi told the Council last night that the wish list will be written in a separate session after individual department budgets get preliminary approval. The budgets for the Department of Community Services, Health Department, Veterans Services Department and Inspection Department received preliminary approval at a Committee of the Whole budget hearing that followed the special Council session last night.

The economic development package is worth a king's ransom to Mayor Smith because it could provide the money to make the proposed limited industrial district near the airport a magnet for industries that could create needed new jobs.

The package devotes a $342,000 windfall of extra Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money provided by the federal emergency jobs bill to three road reconstruction projects that were already in the planned CDBG budget for the next fiscal year.

That frees a corresponding amount that has been transferred to the Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corp. (PERC), the city's quasi-public development arm. Top contenders for the PERC funds are a connector road from South Street to the airport area and water and sewer improvements there.

The connector road and sewer improvements are the likeliest choices, since a total water-line improvement package is being developed by city water consultants O'Brien & Gere. It would be implemented along with the proposed Krofta water treatement system and could be included in the same bond issue.

The City Council did not relinquish its hold on the development funds completely. The approval carried a condition — that PERC cannot spend any of the money without Council approval.

Chief says $260,000 enough

Police Chief Stanley Stankiewicz notified the City Council on Thursday that it was right — $260,000 would be enough to prevent police layoffs.

At a Council Committee of the Whole hearing on the police budget, Stankiewicz said he would need $320,000 to keep on the force 12 officers that had been cut from his budget.

Startled councilors told the chief that City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro earlier had set the price at $260,000. Even that would eat up more than half of the $450,000 kitty available to sweeten the entire 74-section city budget.

In a letter to the Council, Stankiewicz said he had reviewed his figures and found that the auditor's calculations are correct.

The letter removes one of the chief impediments to a current plan to prevent the layoffs.

June 6, 1983

Council gives initial OK to govt. changes

JUN 1 1983

By Judy Katz

The entire package of ordinances that would vaporize some city departments, create others and sculpt city government into the image of the Cresap city management report received preliminary approval at a special City Council meeting last night.

It will take another vote, by a two-thirds majority of eight of the 11 Council members, to seal the changes. But last night's vote, with two councilors absent, was 8-1. Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr. was the only opponent.

A special act to change the city charter to incorporate new departmental job titles also passed unanimously and was forwarded to the state legislature. But according to City Solicitor Edward M. Reilly, the charter change is not necessary for the reorganization. It would just make it tidier.

Some present department heads are not listed in the charter and some positions still in the charter — such as director of public welfare — became obsolete and have remained unfilled for years, he said. All that is accomplished by listing appointed positions in the charter, he said, is fixing the term of office.

The ordinances passed almost without discussion. The councilors apparently said all they had to say during the extensive debate on the ordinances at a Committee of the Whole meeting last week.

Three amendments

Three amendments favored by the Committee of the Whole — which can recommend, but not take a binding vote — were formally folded into the ordinances last night. They make the mayor's appointee to the new post of assistant to the mayor for finance and administration subject to City Council approval, remove the Conservation Commission from the new Department of Community Services, and leave forestry in the Department of Public Works rather than moving it into the new Department of Maintenance.

The Council will vote on the amended version in a week to 10 days, according to a timetable set forth by Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi.

The ordinances reflect changes already incorporated into the city budget. That means that if they do not win final approval, the entire budget — which must be passed by July 1 if city workers are to get their first paychecks of the new fiscal year — would need to be drastically rearranged and revised.

The new setup incorporates 22 city departments into 16.

Under it, the treasurer, tax collector, accountant, assessors, data processing section, newly established purchasing agent and director of administrative services report to the assistant to the mayor for finance and administration. The posts of city auditor and assistant city auditor are abolished.

A new Department of Public Utilities, headed by a new commissioner, takes over supervision of water and sewers from the present Department of Public Works. A new Department of Maintenance takes over the duties of the present building inspector.

The recreation programs of the present Department of Parks and Recreation, which would cease to exist, go to the new Department of Community Services. The new department also includes the Council on Aging and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

The inspectors of wires, plumbing, and gas and the sealer of weights and measures, which now operate autonomously, are put under the supervision of the senior building inspector.

Mayor Smith to be guest of Japan for two weeks

Mayor Charles L. Smith will leave Sunday morning at 9 from Logan International Airport for a two-week trip to Japan as a guest of the Japanese government.

The mayor said his wife, Pat, will go with him — but at his expense.

While there, Smith said, he will visit Japanese industries and municipal governments with two main goals: establishing a sister city relationship between Pittsfield and a Japanese city and enticing a Japanese firm to invest in Pittsfield.

"I've been working towards that for a long time," he said.

The mayor said he will visit several potential sister cities, but the one he particularly hopes will establish ties with Pittsfield is Gotemba. "There's a GE plastics plant there already," he said, "and I spent a good deal of time there when I was in Japan with the Army during the Korean War. I think I spent 18 months in the area."

The trip was arranged by Takeo Iguchi, the Japanese consul-general in Boston. Smith and Iguchi became friendly during the mayor's three-year quest to find a sister city in Japan.

Iguchi will be assigned elsewhere by his governmment in September, Smith said. In April, the consul wrote Mayor Smith that he was "applying to Tokyo for your visit to Japan as an important leader in the New England community." Last month, Iguchi notified Smith that his government had extended the invitation for the June visit.

During his absence, Smith said, Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi will act for him if an emergency arises. "Otherwise, I will take care of everything when I come back."

During those two weeks, the Council will be completing its deliberations on the city budget for fiscal 1983-1984.

Smith said he expects the Council will have its "wish list" ready by the time he returns on June 26. The "wish list" will contain the Council's priorities for using about $450,000 that can be shifted from the water and roadwork accounts to restore jobs and services eliminated from departmental budgets.

June 6, 1983

Funds are voted to pay all police until June 30

At the request of Mayor Charles L. Smith, the City Council last night approved adding enough to this year's Police Department budget to keep 12 officers marked for layoff on the job through the June 30 end of this fiscal year.

The mayor said Police Chief Stanley Stankiewicz told him that the officers would otherwise have to leave the force on June 17.

Since the Council has already made it clear that it intends to devote part of $450,000 in additional funds to keeping at least some of the 12 officers on the payroll, Smith said, it makes no sense to disrupt the department twice — once on June 18 and again on July 1, when some jobs are restored.

Without the appropriation, he said, the special drug unit would have to be disbanded on June 18 and some detectives returned to the uniformed division. The transition would also involve "substantial overtime," he added.

JUN 8 1983

BASEBALL MEETING: There will be a meeting tonight at 7:30 at the Charles Persip American Legion Post 68 on Wendell Avenue for all former local American Legion baseball players who might be interested in helping with arrangements for the Northeast Regional Tournament, which will be hosted by the Post 68 team at Wahconah Park Aug. 23-28. Post 68 team manager Dick Bentley said anyone else interested in helping is also welcome to come to the meeting.

JUN 8 1983

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AMERICAN LEGION: The Lee-Lenox Dale American Legion Post 274 baseball team has scheduled a practice tonight at 6 at Lee High School.

Pittsfield's Charles Persip Post 68 has scheduled a tryout for tonight at 6 at Taconic High. George "Red" Pleau is the head coach.

JUN 8 1983

Expensive trip

It's rather a jolt to learn that it will cost $16,510 to transport from Dunham Mall to Berkshire Community College a piece of sculpture that cost only $5,500 and, in the opinion of most Pittsfield residents, wasn't much of a bargain to begin with. It is reasonable to have to pay for one's mistakes in this life, but the price oughtn't to be as high as all that.

JUN 9 1983

JUN 7 1983

The Council's big test

The most important issue to test the mettle of the Pittsfield City Council in recent memory will come up for a final decision at City Hall tonight when the councilors convene in special session to act on the package of ordinances designed to implement the Cresap report on municipal management.

A two-thirds vote — eight of the 11 councilors — will be needed for enactment of the package. Last week, in the first of the two required readings, the package squeezed through on an 8-1 vote with two councilors absent, but that is no guarantee that it will survive tonight's crucial test. There are indications that it may yet be torpedoed by the backstage politicking of turf-conscious officials who fear reorganization as the devil fears holy water.

Basically, what the package would do is to organize the present helter-skelter roster of municipal departments and agencies by function, greatly tightening management responsibility and permitting much more efficient use of personnel. It would reduce the number of departments reporting directly to the mayor from 22 to 14. It would get the increasingly technical and costly sewer and water operations out of the Public Works Department and into a professionally run department of their own. It would fold sundry other municipal agencies into two new departments of maintenance and community services, and it would consolidate fiscal and administrative functions under a new position of assistant to the mayor.

Admittedly the package isn't perfect. As in any governmental reorganization plan, some political deals (mostly involving commitments as to who will get what jobs) have been necessary to make it palatable to enough councilors. The apparent agreement to install install Parks and Recreation Superintendent Vinnie Hebert in the proposed new post of director of community services is one conspicuous example.

But these manipulations of the political old-boy network are of decidedly secondary importance. The crucial thing right now is to get the package of ordinances enacted, and in the same form that won first-round approval two weeks ago. If the Council evades this duty tonight, most of the $96,000 it spent on the Cresap study will be flushed down the drain and the mayor's new budget (which presupposes enactment of the reorganization package) will become a shambles.

The urgency of all this has been considerably accentuated by Mayor Smith's decision to take off next Sunday for the Orient as a guest of the Japanese government. His mission is worthy; his timing is, to put it charitably, a bit bizarre, what with so many major budget issues still unresolved three weeks before the start of the new fiscal year. That makes it all the more imperative that the City Council put political games-playing aside tonight and at least see to it that the basic reorganization plan is put in place, as is, without further ado.

Council in final rounds of drawing up city budget

By Judy Katz

With only the Fire Department and school budget hearings still to go, the City Council is entering the homestretch of the race to approve a final budget before the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

The Fire Department budget hearing will be Monday and the School Department's, on June 21.

At Monday's hearing, the firefighters' union will bring in its own specialist to critique consultant Cresap, McCormick & Paget's recommendations for Fire Department operating methods. Cresap Vice President William G. Evans is expected to be present to rebut the union expert's rebuttal.

Compilation of the Council wish list is slated for June 21 along with consideration of the school budget. The list will contain everything that individual councilors want to see restored to the budget with the $450,000 in recently uncovered extra funds.

It is a "wish list" because only the mayor can add to the budget. The Council's power is limited to cutting it down. The list works because Mayor Charles L. Smith has a gentleman's agreement with the Council to follow its wishes as closely as he can.

But first, the Council has to prune its wish list to match the funds available. Tuesday, City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi scheduled that task for June 27, the day before the Council is slated to meet to take a final vote on the entire budget.

Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr. developed the rating method that has been used since Proposition 2½ turned the budget process upside down to decide which expenditures make the final wish list that goes to the mayor.

Improvements suggested

Tuesday, he proposed some refinements.

Up until now, each councilor has taken the complete unedited list and assigned the number "1" to the item he or she believes should have top priority. Then the rest are numbered in order of preference, right down to the bottom.

All the individual councilor's rankings for each item — for instance, restoring officers to the Police Department or continuing a playground program for handicapped children — are added together and the sum divided by the number of councilors. Those with the lowest totals get first crack at the available money. When the money is used up, the list ends. Lower-ranked items are dropped.

This time, Cheever said, he would like to reverse the process. If there are 200 items on the list, each councilor should assign the number "200" to indicate highest priority and work downward.

But zeros can be assigned to those items that individual councilors believe should not be considered for funding at all. Then, when the choices are averaged, those with the highest totals will go to the head of the list.

The old method, Cheever pointed out, did not give councilors any way of showing that they do think some items should not be in the running.

At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos argued for removing the judgment factor from the process. He asked that the $450,000 simply be divided among departments in proportion to the extent of cuts in their budgets rather than on a priority basis.

Calling Arlos's proposal "a wishy-washy formula," Ward 2 Councilor Kenneth G. Warren said the Council was elected to use its judgment. Setting priorities, he said, "allows us to take responsibility for what we want to do."

Stracuzzi called for a show of hands. Only Arlos and Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters preferred the Arlos method.

JUN 9 1983

Council OK's govt. changes

JUN 8 1983

By Judy Katz

The City Council last night turned the Cresap report into the Cresap revolution by giving final approval to a package of ordinances that totally reorganize city government.

"This is a very historical moment," said Mayor Charles L. Smith, who had backed the reorganization recommended by management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget to the hilt. "We threw the switch tonight, and it's go."

By 9:40 last night, with only minor travail, the new departments of administration and finance, maintenance, public utilities and buildings had been born.

One rejection

Only one ordinance, the one replacing the Department of Parks and Recreation with a new Department of Community Services comprising recreation, the Council on Aging and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), failed to pass. And that one will get a second chance — in a amended form — at another meeting.

Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman spiked the Department of Community Services. She warned earlier that she would vote against it unless the job of director of the Council on Aging, now held by Andrea G. Pensivy, was restored.

Mrs. Ausman's vote was crucial. Eight votes are needed for final passage. Three councilors were already on record against the ordinance. They were At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos and Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr., who cast the only negative votes on three other reorganization ordinances, and Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton Jr.

Stockton said he could only support the switch if it were phased in gradually. "I don't believe it should be implemented this fast," he said.

The ordinance did not mention the Council on Aging director. It merely created a new director of community services. But in the budget, which the Council has been reviewing for the past two weeks, both Mrs. Pensivy's job and that of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert are missing.

Praises Hebert

Both have said they want the new director's post. But knowledgeable City Hall observers have said Hebert has the job sewn up, and Smith indirectly confirmed that last night.

In answer to Mrs. Ausman's declaration that the Council on Aging needs a full-time director, the mayor came forward to state that Hebert "has great understanding of the elderly as well as the children of this city" and is fully qualified to handle both aspects of the directorship.

Because the budget contains only the one director's post, he said, "If you vote [the ordinance] down, you will just eliminate his job as well as the director of the Council on Aging."

"If the mayor wants to stick his head in the sand and not fund those positions, that's his problem," Mrs. Ausman retorted.

At-large Councilor Joseph W. Ryan asked for a five-minute recess, but Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi had already begun the call for a vote. Ryan dashed down to where Smith sat in the audience and conferred with him intently, returning to his seat just in time to vote in favor of passage.

The recess was called after the 7-4 vote. Ryan and Stracuzzi huddled around Mrs. Ausman, arguing and gesticulating. The ordinance was brought forward again when the Council reconvened, and Mrs. Ausman offered an amendment: add the director of the Council on Aging to the personnel specified in the ordinance and make it effective for one year only.

The second part of the amendment would create a chance to adopt the original version next year if Hebert, who is old enough to retire, should choose to do so.

Cheever objects

Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever Jr. objected that while he sympathizes with the motives — "there are two very good people for one position" — the amendment is unsound. It would maintain the top-level jobs in a city division whose responsibilities had significantly decreased, since the already-passed department of maintenance ordinance transferred responsibility for parks to that department.

Stracuzzi informed the Council that since the amendment creates a substantive change in the ordinance, it would have to return to square one. The Council could only give preliminary approval and would have to take a final vote at another meeting.

The amended ordinance obtained preliminary approval, with Arlos and Cheever opposed. But Mrs. Ausman stated that she hopes to get a commitment from Smith to fund the Council on Aging director's job before the ordinance comes back for a final vote.

Smith said later that he will think it over. But, he said, "It's a duplication of effort, having two high-ranking people basically doing the

Govt. changes
Continued on Page 5

Govt. changes gain approval

Continued from Page 1

same job."

The Council amended the ordinance creating an assistant to the mayor to head the new department of administration and finance by removing the $30,000 salary figure and substituting, "such salary as the City Council shall determine by ordinance." An earlier amendment made appointees to the job subject to Council approval.

The Council beat back an amendment put forward by Arlos to the companion ordinance creating the department. Arlos wanted to combine the treasurer's job with that of tax collector. The ordinance allows the mayor to decide — with Council confirmation — which official gets the additional duties and the extra $5,000 or so a year that goes with them.

The new maintenance department adds the city garage and parks grounds keeping to the duties of the former Department of Public Buildings. Since all the ordinances took effect upon adoption, the transition period starts this morning, even though the budget reflecting the new setup does not go into effect until July 1.

Mayor stands firm

In the budget, forestry is also assigned to the Department of Maintenance. The Council voted to keep it in the Department of Public Works. Mayor Smith made an unsuccessful pitch for reconsideration, saying placing it with maintenance would improve efficiency and allow workers to be assigned wherever needed during slack times for tree work.

After the session, he said forestry will stay in the maintenance budget in spite of the Council. "I'm not taking it out," he said.

The Council can cut the budget but not rearrange it, he said. "If they want to zero-fund forestry, they won't have a department of forestry."

And Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle, whose salary is cut by about $2,500 in the new budget to reflect his diminished duties now that the garage, water and sewer divisions have been reorganized out of his department, said, also after the session, that if he is given back the forestry division without the $1,000 tree warden's stipend, he will not administer it.

JUN 3 1983

Elderly citizens lobby Council to retain Mrs. Pensivy's position

A contingent of elderly citizens turned out at Tuesday night's City Council budget hearing to back Council on Aging Director Andrea G. Pensivy, while another delegation lobbied hard for more recreation money.

The mayor's government reorganization plan puts Mrs. Pensivey in a game of musical chairs with Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert. Both their jobs are gone from the budget as a result of the mayor's government reorganization plan, replaced by a single director of community services post.

The Pensivy and parks support groups sat through a special Council meeting while waiting for the budget hearing to start, so they heard City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi announce that $450,000 has been cut loose from the budget to fund a "wish list" to restore lost jobs.

He acknowledged that the inevitable result is a scramble by advocates of specific programs for a share of the money, commenting, "It's like opening Pandora's box."

The box opened at once.

Paula Virgilio, acting chairman of the Parks Commission, told the Council, "Now that I know you have a surplus, I would like you to consider allocating that money to parts of the parks program I want to fight for."

The budget provides no money for paid summer playground supervisors this summer. She urged the full playground program be restored, saying that it provides part-time jobs for college students and serves children who can't afford to go away to summer camp.

Mayor Charles L. Smith, in introducing the Department of Community Services budget, said money for the summer playground program for handicapped children had been left out by mistake. He told the Council that restoring it is high on his wish list, and that "when you consider a wish list, I hope you would include that in your priorities."

'Grossly unfair'

Referring to that statement, Mrs. Virgilio said it is "grossly unfair to ask the average taxpayer" to support the program for handicapped children if supervisors are not provided for the other playgrounds. She called it "favoritism to a special interest group."

She also argued that the job of recreation supervisor should be restored. "I don't think it is feasible to ask the director of recreation, which is Johnny Marchesi at present, to do not only his job but the job of the recreation supervisor." And, of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert, she said, "I don't think the city of Pittsfield can afford to lose a leader of his caliber."

Other speakers lobbied for more money for park police, athletic field maintenance and baseball and football leagues.

Council on Aging Chairman Ralph Froio said it needs a full-time director. He presented petitions supporting retention of Mrs. Pensivy's job and opposing creation of the Department of Community Services.

Josephine Scalise of 760 South St., told the Council that the senior center "runs so smoothly just because Andrea is there."

Senior Center volunteer Daniel Foley of 662 Tyler St., thundered, "I'm here just for one purpose — to stand by Andrea. She's one hell of a person. She does one hell of a job. Don't replace her."

After the hearing on the Department of Community Services budget, which received preliminary approval as presented, Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman asked that a full-time Council on Aging director be put on the wish list.

Mrs. Ausman has been an outspoken advocate of retaining that job. She pointed out at earlier Council sessions that the budget alters the Department of Community Services structure recommended by government management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget of Washington, D.C., and called for adoption of the Cresap report model.

The Cresap report recommended keeping the Council on Aging director, eliminating the posts of superintendent of parks and recreation and director of recreation and allowing the Council on Aging director to supervise the new department rather than creating a new department head.

Council President Stracuzzi turned aside Mrs. Ausman's wish list request. He said each councilor will compile an individual wish list during the budget hearings, which continue tonight and next week. After all hearings are complete, he said, the individual lists will be collated into a single Council list.

JUN 3 1983

Smith's leaky slush fund

Back in the middle of May, when Mayor Charles L. Smith came up with a lean budget of $40.4 million that managed to include 85 percent of the Cresap report's recommendations, he won plaudits from this corner for setting the city on a track that would help it to weather the years of sustained austerity that Proposition 2½ requires. Cynics, on the other hand, said that the mayor or his auditor probably had a few hundred thousand tucked away and would present the money to the Council at a politically strategic moment. The cynics were right.

In just two weeks, the administration — under the prodding of City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi — has discovered $450,000 that they say can now be used to restore cuts in the May 17 budget. Most of the money, $322,000, comes from the Water Department, whose coffers are kept full by the water fees. From the time those fees were doubled two years ago, the department was supposed to, in effect, be charged by the general fund for certain "overhead" expenses. But that hasn't been happening and, the mayor says, the $322,000 is what the department "owes" the city.

But, accepting this explanation at face value, why *haven't* water-fee revenues covering overhead costs been credited back to the city regularly? Are the fees higher than is needed? Or should this $322,000 be going toward solving some of the city's still pressing water-quality problems?

The use of this new-found slush fund raises almost as many questions as its source. By pressing the mayor to find unspent money, Mr. Stracuzzi seems to have gone to the front of the line with his suggestion for appropriating the bulk of the funds: He wants them to go toward restoring the 12 police positions that were cut in the May 17 budget.

Two weeks ago, the mayor agreed with the recommendation of Cresap — the city could get along without the officers. But this week, he appears to have swung over to Mr. Stracuzzi's view, that the 12 officers (not just four or six) are so crucial to the city's safety that they should have precedence over any of the other departments that took deep cuts in the May 17 budget. This, by the way, is his second flip-flop on this question of police manpower. A few days before unveiling his budget, he said there would be no cuts in the department.

This waffling back and forth cannot help but raise suspicions that the whole issue of how to spend the slush-fund money is being decided not so much on the basis of the city's actual needs as on political pressures. A responsible city leader does not swing from a major cut to no cut in a department as important as police without more reasons than the citizens of Pittsfield have seen.

By the way, the mayor's credibility on this issue is not enhanced by his failure to hold out in negotiations with the policemen's bargaining unit for a switch from the department's four-days-on, two-days-off schedule to a normal five-on, two-off. For anyone genuinely concerned about police manpower levels, that was a way to make a real gain. But, as things stand now, the budget process — for police and other departments — has been thrown into a political free-for-all in which all bets are off.

Transition to a new system goes smoothly at City Hall

By Judy Katz

Even though Pittsfield had one set of government agencies when City Hall closed at 4 Tuesday and another when it reopened at 8 yesterday, the transition is "pretty much squared away," Mayor Charles L. Smith said yesterday.

"We've done a lot of planning, a lot of preparation," he said.

Down the hall from Smith's office, Director of Administrative Services Lawrence A. Grizey Jr. was writing an advertisement seeking a commissioner to head the newly created Department of Public Utilities. He said the qualifications include a professional engineer's license and experience in both water and wastewater management.

Smith said that is the only job he plans to advertise, at least until he has looked over applicants from within city government or the community.

He noted that several candidates have already lined up for the job of purchasing agent. That will require strong skills, he said, because a system must be created from scratch and the agent will buy for the schools as well as other city departments.

Up until now, the School Department has done its own buying, even during the two years when Pittsfield had a purchasing agent.

"Under Proposition 2½ and state law," the mayor said, "the School Department is a department of the city and would fall under the purchasing department."

Two recommendations

Centralized purchasing for all departments, including schools, was a prime recommendation of the 1974 Herklots Commission that studied city government. The Washington, D.C., management consulting firm of Cresap, McCormick & Paget stressed the need for a purchasing agent in its report on non-school city departments. It is expected to advise giving the agent responsibility for school buying when it formally submits its study of the School Department later this month.

The new government structure the City Council ratified Tuesday is slated to become fully effective July 1, when the new fiscal year starts. Smith said he will probably make temporary appointments to some of the newly created administrative positions "until I can get someone on board who is qualified."

He may submit the temporary appointments to the Council when it meets to vote on the budget June 28, he said.

City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro will oversee the changeover as head of the new Department of Administration and Finance, Smith said. He is sure Sarro, who is 70 and would like to retire, will stay at the helm until the right person is found to replace him. "Nick won't leave me in the lurch," the mayor said.

He added that he expects to have a hard time finding the right person. Top-notch financial officers earn top dollars in private business, he said.

The transition will cost money, the mayor said, because some of the displaced city workers have accrued vacation time that extends beyond July 1. Ordinarily, if a worker is laid off and is still owed, say, two weeks' paid vacation, that worker leaves the job two weeks before the end of the fiscal year.

Sarro is calculating the total amount, Smith said, and it will be added to the budget as a line item.

JUN 9 1983

Mayor vows battle against Ausman move

Mayor Charles L. Smith said yesterday he is prepared to play hardball to prevent dissident councilor Mary E. Ausman from redesigning his proposed Department of Community Services.

The ordinance creating the new department was defeated 7-4 by the City Council Tuesday. In its place, Ward 4 Councilor Ausman submitted an amended version which would be effective for only one year and include a Council on Aging director in its list of constituent personnel.

The new version won preliminary approval, but must pass again by at least eight votes to become effective. Mrs. Ausman, a dedicated partisan of Council on Aging director Andrea G. Pensivy, has said she wants the mayor's commitment to fund the Council on Aging director's job before that final vote.

Smith said that if Mrs. Ausman's version of the ordinance passes, he will not put money in the budget to pay a Council on Aging director. And if the Council does not pass any ordinance creating the new department, he said, he said he will not alter the budget at all. "It would be a department with no heads," he said.

The budget lists a $28,500 salary for a "director of community services." If the ordinance creating the job does not pass, that job would not be filled.

That would presumably leave the present departmental lineup in place — a separate Department of Parks and Recreation, minus the park maintenance responsibilities already reassigned to the Department of Maintenance, and a separate Council on Aging. But the titles and salaries of the superintendent of parks and recreation and director of the Council on Aging have been dropped from the budget. Mayor Smith said that he will not restore those jobs under any circumstances.

If the ordinance does not pass, he said, it will be up to the volunteer Council on Aging to administer its staff and the volunteer Park Commission to administer the recreation staff without paid directors.

Need for control

"I rarely buck the Council," Smith said. "But the people of this city have to believe that the mayor is in control. They cannot be allowed to believe I am capable of being coerced or pressured into doing something I don't believe in.

"People can forgive you for making mistakes or for not agreeing with them, but not if they believe City Hall is controlled by pressures from specific groups or self-serving people."

Smith said earlier that paying both a director of community services and a Council on Aging director would be paying two people to do one job. He added yesterday that he cannot justify spending $17,000 to placate supporters of the Council on Aging director when the money could be better spent to add a volunteer coordinator's job to the community services budget.

When he cut the supervisor of recreation's job from the budget, he said, it slipped his mind that a network of volunteers had been put together under a one-year state grant to donate time and labor to maintaining and supervising the parks.

For the volunteers to work effectively, he said, they must have a coordinator to advise them, keep schedules, do paperwork, make contacts and see that they get materials they need for park repairs.

"When you talk about a couple of hundred volunteers," Smith said, "and about the hours and the benefits to the city, that is one program I would hate to see jeopardized."

He said the present supervisor of recreation would be eligible to apply for a new coordinator of volunteers position, but it would be up to the Park Commission — and the director of community services — to decide whom to hire.

The mayor did not speculate on the possibility that the present director of the Council on Aging, Andrea G. Pensivy, might be interested in such a post. Mrs. Pensivy has extensive prior experience as a Parks Department recreation coordinator.

JUN 9 1983

Editorials

Pittsfield's 2½ payoff

Congratulations are deserved all around for all the Pittsfield officials, elected and non-elected, who had a hand in winning unanimous approval from the City Council for the zoning change needed to make the airport area a site for potential light industrial development. But if new businesses do take root out there, a measure of credit ought to go to that much-maligned limit on property taxes, Proposition 2½.

It is Proposition 2½ that is helping to make cities like Pittsfield more competitive with outlying communities which, until recently, could lure industrial development with the promise of significantly lower real estate taxes. A gap in tax rates still exists, but it is being reduced drastically. Eventually, virtually all communities in Massachusetts will be taxing at or about 2.5 percent of valuation. When that happens, the property-tax factor will vanish from the calculations of companies making relocation or expansion decisions.

This is decidedly to Pittsfield's advantage. Once taxes are neutralized, the city's assets make it a prime location for development in Berkshire County. It is the county population nucleus, with the most potential workers for an employer; it is centrally located and it has a lead over most county communities in the availability of roads and sewer and water service.

These assets will also come into play if and when the new-housing market in Berkshire County revives. Like businessmen, would-be homeowners will no longer be tempted to locate outside of the city to take advantage of tax-rate differentials. With much open land for housing still available, Pittsfield will be able to compete directly with other communities for this form of development.

Granted, Proposition 2½ has had its drawbacks as well. In Pittsfield and elsewhere, it has forced a reduction in services, especially education, at a rate faster than ideal. By making communities more dependent on state aid for local financing, 2½ has also whittled away at local authority. So far, the biggest disappointment associated with 2½ is that it still has not compelled the Legislature to revamp the state's tax structure in a way that would either give communities new taxing authority or a more assured share of beefed-up state tax collections.

But 2½ is directly responsible for the Cresap report reorganization of Pittsfield's government, just as it was the major factor in North Adams' municipal realignment. And the tax limit is also helping Pittsfield to realize that maybe it isn't such an industrial-development wallflower, after all. These are *not* minor gains.

JUN 16 1983

JUN 16 1983

New department needs second vote by City Council

An ordinance creating a Department of Community Services — the only missing piece in the mayor's reorganization plan — is back at the starting line after failing to finish a week ago.

The City Council defeated an amended version Tuesday and then passed the original 8-2, enough votes for final passage. But City Solicitor Edward M. Reilly ruled that even though the Council had voted it preliminary approval earlier, a second vote will be needed at another meeting.

An ordinance needs to be passed twice to become part of the city code — the first time by a simple majority, the second by a two-thirds majority of the 11-member Council. The Department of Community Services ordinance passed the first test. But it flunked 7-4 — one short of the required two-thirds majority — June 7.

Temporary City Council President Joseph W. Ryan scavenged for a procedural lever to make Tuesday's vote the final one. But Reilly turned aside his suggestions with, "In my legal opinion, it takes two."

The negative votes Tuesday were cast by Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman and Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton. On June 7, they had been joined by Ward 5 Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr. and At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos, who were in the other camp Tuesday.

Mrs. Ausman amended the ordinance June 7 to add the job of director of the Council on Aging to its list of departmental personnel, and that version was given preliminary approval then. But the mayor announced afterward that he would not put a salary in the budget for a job he considers a duplication of effort.

That, Mrs. Ausman said, nullified the compromise. Her colleagues showed their agreement by voting down the amended version, clearing the way for resurrection of the original.

If it passes the second time, it will establish the Department of Community Services headed by a director that is already figured into the budget. Mayor Charles L. Smith provided a salary for a director of community services but eliminated the jobs of superintendent of parks and recreation and director of the Council on Aging.

The community services director's job is expected to go to present Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert.

JUN 21 1983

Don't call it junk!

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Messrs. Chiaretto and Faitsch [Letters, June 13 and 16] don't like modern art. I don't like some of it either, but I do like much of it, and I object to being cast, by implication as a con man in writing and teaching enthusiastically about it.

As for auctioning off the Dunham Mall piece as a "hunk of metal," your correspondents are on dangerous ground. Not so dangerous, perhaps, as in the famous case of the destruction of Diego Rivera's mural for Radio City that ended up in a disastrous lawsuit favoring the artist, but the principle is not much different.

If your correspondents would take the trouble to find out the membership of the committee of selection that chose Sahl Swartz's piece for the mall, they might be surprised to learn who these con persons were. Remember, they served without compensation. Furthermore, the piece was a gift to the city. Yes, I was a member of that committee, and if anyone is interested, I could explain why I still think it is a good piece and well designed for the particular site — if only the city would take proper care of the "fountain" that was a part of the original project submitted to the competitors.

S. LANE FAISON Jr.
Scott Hill Road
Williamstown

JUN 21 1983

Park Square demonstrations are debated



Clifford J. Nilan
Opposes demonstrations

By Donna B. Mattoon

The Park Commission failed last night to resolve whether or not groups should be allowed to demonstrate in Park Square and ultimately agreed to turn the matter over to a subcommittee when two members with opposing views appeared unlikely to budge.

In a friendly debate Clifford J. Nilan, concerned that demonstrators may discourage the majority of residents from using the park as a place for peaceful relaxation, said he was also worried that public forums may cause personal and property injury.

Alma Arlos contended that Park Square belongs to all city residents — even those demonstrating for issues that may irritate the majority of residents. In addition, she said it was not the city's obligation to insure the safety of everyone who gathers there for a rally.

"The park must be used, and if it makes the park look worse in the process, so be it," she said.

A third member of the Park Commission, who said he saw merit to both arguments, suggested forming the subcommittee.

"It strikes me that it is very difficult to sit at a Park Commission meeting and hash out the rules and regulations governing the parks," said Anthony G. Massimiano, who convinced the others that a smaller group was better suited for investigating the pros and cons.

The issue surfaced in April when a coalition of peace groups seeking a change in the United State's policy in Central America, requested the use of Park Square for a rally.

The Park Commission has a longstanding policy of refusing to allow demonstration in Park Square, claiming that large gatherings there could jeopardize the concentration of motorists negotiating the rotary.

Along with the potential for traffic and pedestrian accidents, the Park Commission said that large numbers gathered in the park could damage the grass and that no money existed to repair the turf.

"When we fix something up and make it look nice, it encourages bad values. We don't want people to use it," Mrs. Arlos said, referring to the improvements made to Park Square during the bicentennial period.

Appearing to dismiss concerns over the trampled grass, Mrs. Arlos said that the parks exist for the people, and that "the Park Commission does not exist for the park."

Nilan said that while he is personally opposed to using the park for demonstrations, guidelines ought to be established if other members of the commission agree that it should be so used.

For example, Nilan said that groups requesting use of Park Square could leave a fee deposit that would be used to cover expenses in case of damage. In addition, he suggested that the groups also take responsibility for hiring a police officer for protection.

"I certainly wouldn't make money one of the conditions for using the park," Mrs. Arlos countered. "The parks belong to everyone, and that requirement would close it off from some people."

Nilan also suggested that other city parks be designated as the site for public demonstrations or gathering. "Why Park Square?" he asked.

"Because it is in the center of the city," Mrs. Arlos answered. "Even positions that we disagree with ought to be represented there."

Agreeing that the Park Commission should establish rules if it agrees to change its policy governing the use of Park Square for demonstrations, Mrs. Arlos said the rules should nevertheless be reasonable, and not "aimed at making its use impossible."



Alma Arlos
Urges square's use by all

New dept., new zoning approved

In an anticlimactic two minutes, the City Council last night voted, without debate, to create the Department of Community Services and the Pittsfield Municipal Airport area limited industrial district.

Both actions had been the subject of hearings, extensive debate and strong feelings in the preceding weeks. But the issues had cooled and final approval was expected to come just as it did: as a simple formality.

Both needed eight votes for passage.

The vote on the Department of Community Services Ordinance, the only one of the group of ordinances reorganizing city government to have been stalled by Council resistance, was 8-1. Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton voted against it. Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman and At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos, both prior opponents of the change, arrived after the vote was taken.

The vote on rezoning about 600 acres of land around the airport to form a limited industrial district there, the cornerstone of Pittsfield's hopes for an expanded tax base, new business investment and new jobs, was unanimous.

After the vote to establish the Department of Community Services — the successor to the present Department of Parks and Recreation — Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, who is acting mayor in the absence of Mayor Charles L. Smith, announced that a letter will be sent to Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert naming him acting director of community services.

Hebert, who was jobless for the few seconds between the vote and the announcement, was in the audience. JUN 22 1983

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The Berkshire Eagle, Thursday, June 23, 1983—11

Council 'wish list' at $1.3 million as pot of funds shrinks to $393,000

By Judy Katz

The City Council learned Tuesday that only $393,000 remains in the city's piggybank just as it drew up a list of 83 wishes that would cost $1.3 million to grant.

The mayor and City Council earlier located about $450,000 in uncommitted or shiftable city funds to restore jobs or services cut from the budget.

But City Auditor Nicholas J. Sarro told the Council the pot has shrunk. About $15,000 is needed to cover about nine weeks of accrued vacation pay owed each of two Fire Department captains who will retire July 9 and one firefighter who will retire July 5.

That will permit three of the 19 firefighters whose jobs were cut from the fiscal 1983-1984 budget to be called back as of July 10. Unless the $15,000 is added to cover the retirees' vacation pay, said Fire Chief Joseph W. Coy, the three laid-off firefighters could not be recalled until September. That would hike overtime costs to keep shifts staffed during the summer, one of the peak periods for firefighter vacations.

Salary left out

Sarro also reminded councilors that Mayor Charles L. Smith earmarked $30,000 for a police captain whose salary was accidentally left out when the budget was printed and $14,000 to pay a public works dispatcher Smith realized he needed after the budget was complete.

Individual councilors now have five days to examine the wish list and decide what they want most. On Monday, the day before final approval of the budget is scheduled, the Council will meet to agree on the $393,000 of extras it will actually ask Mayor Smith to add to the budget.

The mayor has the final say. He can substitute his own favorites for the Council's picks. But the system, which has been followed since Proposition 2½ went into effect, has worked because the mayor traditionally hews closely to the Council's recommendations.

The $1.3 million blue-sky wish list includes virtually everything councilors, city workers or citizens pushed for during the series of public hearings on the budget that began last month.

It includes — among other items — 12 police officers, at $21,700 each; a Council on Aging director at $18,900; four park police at $4,000 each; supervision for playgrounds during the summer at $12,000; five school nurses at $14,500 each; two public health aides at $10,000 each; two library workers at $15,000 each; $2,000 to rescind a pay cut budgeted for Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle, and $120,000 worth of highway workers.

Firefighters

Since three laid-off firefighters are already slated for callback, the 19 wish-list entries for firefighters, at $23,000 each, might shrink to 16. During debate on the budget, councilors seemed to be moved more by reluctance to put firefighters out on the street than an objective desire to see the department stay at its present size.

That would reduce the total cost of satifying those wishes from $437,000 to $368,000.

Management consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget reported that fire protection could be maintained with 33 fewer firefighters and eight fewer Fire Department civilians. Mayor Smith, after conferring with Fire Chief Coy, disagreed and trimmed 19 firefighters from the budget instead.

Mayor Smith put in a special plug for one wish-list entry, $15,000 to continue the playground program for handicapped children at Highland School. He also backed restoring police jobs and keeping two of the five school nurses.

The Council put together its wish list immediately after a public hearing on the school budget that brought impassioned pleas from parents and school personnel for a variety of extras.

School department

The School Department's wishes were duly entered on the list. They include a plastics technology program for handicapped students, $20,000; additional computer instruction, teacher training and microcomputers, $70,000; a guidance counselor, $20,000, and special-education staff, $86,000.

At-large Councilor Joseph W. Ryan objected to including School Department wishes on the list because Mayor Smith has already pledged to give the schools $265,000 to supplement the $17.3 million School Department budget.

But Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi told Ryan he was jumping the gun. That night's task was to draw a complete list, he said. Deciding what to drop will come next week.

Between now and then, each councilor will sit down with his or her own copy of the list and rank the items in order. With a list of 83, the number 83 equals top priority, the number 82 second choice, and so on down. Each number can be used only once.

Councilors also have the option of giving a zero rating to anything they don't believe should be in the running for the limited dollars available.

Total the ratings

Monday night, all the ratings will be totaled and averaged to determine the final Council recommendations.

How many expensive items end up at the top of the ladder will determine how far the money goes. For instance, if police officers occupy the top 12 slots, only $133,000 will be left for items farther down the list. If firefighters occupy the top 16, only $25,000 will be left.

Council members have advocated two different approaches to rating the wish list.

Most cling to the traditional method of using their perception of the public welfare as a guide, putting the dollars toward services they believe are most essential to their constituents. In the past, that has given the edge to the fire and police departments or basics such as snow plowing.

But At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos favors applying a formula based on the budget losses of the departments rather than judgments about the needs of the public. He has called for giving each department back an identical percentage of the amount originally cut from its budget. That way, everyone gets a little something.

In Brief . . .

Soapbox Derby's return

For anyone attending his first soapbox derby Sunday, one of the pleasant discoveries is the quietness of the motor-less racing. In this respect and in the emphasis on coping with wind resistance, the sport has more in common with sailboat racing than with the Indianapolis 500. As for residents of Pittsfield's Williams Street, where the event was held Sunday, the derby cars created a great deal less noise than usual weekend traffic.

JUN 28 1983

JUN 28 1983

Council restores all but 2 police

By Donna B. Mattoon

Police Chief Stanley Stankiewicz left the City Council chambers a happy man last night after hearing that 10 out of 12 officers landed in the priority section of the City Council's wish list.

As he was leaving the meeting — and in spite of the apparent good news — Stankiewicz whispered that he intended to continue fighting for the last two officers.

But the mayor later hinted that may not be necessary.

May go 'all the way'

Just back from a two-week trip to Japan, Mayor Charles L. Smith said he would find it difficult not to "go all the way" and restore all 12 police officers to the force.

The remaining police slots belong to two female officers who have turned out to be "exemplary" members of the force, Smith said. In addition, the city paid for their training and deserves a return on its investment, he said.

The mayor said he would not have considered restoring the entire force if the City Council had raised only five out of the 12 police officer slots to top places on its wish list.

"But since they've gone this far, I believe we would be remiss in not including them all," he said.

The mayor is not obliged to honor any of the City Council's recommendations. Traditionally, though, he has remained fairly close to City Council desires, and the current wish list will be no exception, he said.

"I don't think anyone will be very surprised. We are all in the same ballpark," Smith said last night.

The mayor said he will make his decision this morning, in time to prepare the final version of the

Policemen restored
Continued on Page 6

Policemen restored

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Continued from Page 1

budget for vote by the City Council tonight.

Smith said there may be a few deviations from the Council's wish list, but he is prepared to justify the changes before the public tonight.

Special needs playground

One of the surprises may be a recommendation by the mayor to fund the Highland special needs playground. The cost would be $15,000.

That item rated No. 24 on the City Council's wish list and thus was disqualified from the final list of priorities. But Smith said it received high scores from seven of nine councilors, and he believes councilors have an excellent sense of what the needs of the city actually are.

Personally, Smith said he doesn't believe there should be a lapse for the summer in the recreational needs of handicapped children.

The City Council had $393,000 in uncommitted funds to distribute among budget items it considered to be priorities in the city. Last week, the councilors ultimately settled on an 84-item wish list and spent the weekend attaching scores to each item according to personal preferences.

At the meeting last night, the councilors read off their scores, accumulated final tallies for each item and then arranged the items in order until the money ran out.

Some 20 items survived the $339,000 cutoff point. In addition to the 10 police officers, the City Council restored five of 19 firefighters destined for layoffs, two public nurses and two highway department laborers, and rescinded a $2,000 pay cut in Commissioner of Public Works Gerald Doyle's salary.

The total restoration of funds actually amounted to $394,000, which City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi said was close enough. He also cautioned members of the audience that the figures cited last night were unofficial, since no time remained to doublecheck additions.

Councilor Francis A. Chichetto Jr. was absent from the meeting, and At-Large Councilor Peter G. Arlos did not contribute scores, claiming he does not believe in the "numbers game."

At any rate, Arlos said he is positive that the mayor will grant his personal priority — two library aides — because the need is compelling, and the request was made in person.

I SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR FAIL

JUN 29 1983

City Council OK's budget

Police Dept. kept at full strength; Fire Dept. loses 15

By Judy Katz

The City Council wrote the final chapter in the fiscal 1983-1984 budget saga last night by unanimously approving a $40.8 million budget that maintains the Police Department at its present strength and trims 15 jobs from the Fire Department.

The final budget contains most but not all of the changes the Council requested Monday when it submitted its wish list for allocating about $400,000 available to expand the original $40.4 million budget.

Mayor Charles L. Smith followed through on his announced intention of restoring all 12 police jobs deleted earlier rather than the 10 the Council asked for. Where the Council wanted to keep five of 19 endangered firefighter jobs, the mayor added back four. Explaining the deviations to the Council, Smith said he does not want to lose two of the three recently hired woman police officers "that we just spent money to train."

If they are dropped from the force, he said, the city's investment is gone for good. He said they would not be available for recall if other officers resign or retire. "There are other towns and cities waiting to grab these women because they have already been trained," he said.

Earlier, Smith said that firefighters must be added in units of four for staffing efficiency.

He added two highway division drivers and two public health nurses requested by the Council. But he did not restore one item that ranked higher on the wish list — $2,000 to return Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle to his former salary level. Doyle's responsibilities have been diminished by government reorganization.

Even though the budget for the fiscal year that starts Friday is finished, Smith may write an epilogue.

He said he may transfer or appropriate money later to keep a Department of Public Works street foreman and two library aides.

He said Commissioner Doyle told him the street foreman plans to retire in April. If his job is cut now, he could bump the foreman below him, "and if we lose him, his position would be gone forever."

The cost of keeping the job until April would be $7,000, Smith said, because one of Doyle's drivers recently had a heart attack and Doyle is willing to have that now-vacant job cut in exchange for the street foreman's position.

'A great concern'

Smith explained the other potential addition by saying that "the library is a great concern of mine."

The Council also approved a revised $1.2 million revenue-sharing budget. But that vote was not unanimous. Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman voted against approval after staging a one-woman protest against shifting about $27,000 from the streetlight account to support a summer playground program for handicapped children and make up funding shortfalls for the Early Childhood Development Center and CANBE, an education program for pregnant teen-agers.

Mrs. Ausman said that if more money is allocated for social services, there are more pressing needs to be met. She reminded the Council that it established a Human Services Advisory Committee to sift requests from social service agencies. "This is like going back to handling them one by one," she said.

GE shutdown for vacations starts today

Pittsfield General Electric transformer employees will be starting the annual plant summer vacation shutdown today and will be joined a week later by workers in the ordnance systems plants.

GE said the 1983 summer vacation shutdown payroll will total $12 million.

Transformer department workers will be out for three weeks, starting at the end of their shifts today. They will return to work July 25. Ordnance employees will be out for two weeks from July 11 to July 24.

The GE plastics operations in Pittsfield will not have a summer shutdown this year.

JUL 1 1983

Looking Back

50 Years Ago

On Greylock's rugged dome, 3,000 feet above Plymouth Rock and higher than any other point in the commonwealth, Massachusetts officialdom formally dedicated the state's memorial to its war dead.

June 30, 1983



7-5-83

Susan Plageman

FIRST STREET THRONG views Fourth of July Parade as the Pittsfield High Cadettes perform in the foreground. The parade lasted more than two hours and was watched by crowd estimated by police at 60,000.

JUL 5 1983

Parade draws 60,000

By Grier Horner

As stray balloons soared into a hazy summer sky, the roll of drums and blare of trumpets reverberated across Park Square and through city streets yesterday to celebrate the Fourth of July.

An estimated 60,000 sweltering spectators were treated to music from two dozen drum corps and from singers on several floats — the biggest musical outpouring in the parade's history.

Faces flushed and glistening with perspiration, many marchers found participating in the 2-hour, 20-minute event in 85-degree heat a little like running a mile in a three-piece suit.

Berkshire Medical Center, with its "Take Me out to the Ball Game" float, won the contest for best overall float for the third year in a row. In the process, the hospital retired the Al Bianchi memorial trophy.

The Colts of Dubuque, Iowa, were named the best drum and bugle corps. They were one of three big-name Midwestern groups participating at a cost to the parade com-

Parade draws
Continued on Page 14



UNCLE SAM and Michael Cleveland of the Disabled American Veterans chatted before the start of yesterday's parade. Uncle Sam is Victor Fragala and was on the DAV float.



GRAND MARSHAL PAUL NIXON and his wife Patricia wave to crowd from deck of convertible. Singer Arlo Guthrie, his wife Jackie and their daughters also rode in the parade. So did actor Michael Vale, the Sam Breakstone of TV commercials.

Photos by Susan Plageman



AMERICAN FLAGS FLYING, marchers parade up a section of North Street jammed six deep with spectators on each side. This long view was taken from the reviewing stand near Taylor'd Sound. In foreground is the Coginchaug Ancient Fife and Drum Corps of Durham, Conn., one of several Revolutionary-style bands participating.

Parade draws 60,000 people

Continued from Page 1

mittee of $2,000 to $2,500 each.

Another crowd-pleaser was the all-male Madison (Wis.) Scouts, which gave an impromptu concert to an appreciative crowd in front of the blue-domed St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church on Wahconah Street at the parade's end.

5th in nation

Parade committee president Beverly A. Chartier said the Scouts are the fifth-ranking drum and bugle corps in the nation. To bring groups like that in, the committee raised its music budget to $13,500, from the $10,000 it spent last year.

"I thought the parade went off really well," Mrs. Chartier said. "A couple musical units didn't show up, . . . but we kind of worked our way around it."

Among those on parade were groups ranging from the youngest band, St. Mary's Drum Corps of Lee, to the lively leg-flashing, musket-firing entries of Eastover in Lee. They included veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and Army Reserves whose faces were painted to match the green and tan camouflage of their jeeps.

Special Olympics athletes and Soap Box Derby racers participated. The young women in Sing Out Lenox sang jukebox music while the women on the NAACP float and Josephine Scalise on the Disabled American Veterans float sang spirituals and patriotic songs.

A cooling breeze helped hold down the discomfort level during the parade, and it tugged at the colorful clusters of balloons hawked by vendors like Al Pierce of Hampton. His Smurf balloons were going at $3 each.

Bob Sheehan of Stratford Avenue, his reddish beard dotted with perspiration, shed his tunic after the parade and downed a soda. His yellow T-shirt carried the words "Scotland Forever" above his hot wool tartan kilts.

"When you have a lot of people watching," the stocky bagpiper said, "you don't get hot and miserable until you finish."

Joyce Belden of the Hatfield Ancient Fife and Drum Corps, sat on a wall on Wahconah Street after the parade. The 54-year-old woman's face was red as she rested following her third parade of the holiday weekend.

"The heat isn't a big deal," she said. "You hear the other groups playing, and you get psyched up and you want to keep going."

For Peter Lund Jr., 1½, of Harding Street, this was his first parade. Perched on his father's shoulders, he looked around wide-eyed trying to take it all in.

More than 80 years older, Jack Goodstein, a Manhattan builder, was also enjoying what he saw. The 82-year-old New Yorker said that this was the first time he had watched the parade here. He added that he had marked another first the night before, when he picnicked at Tanglewood.

"As a kid brought up in the gutters of New York, it's the first picnic I ever went to," said Goldstein.

In addition to BMC, other winners among the floats were:

— Hillcrest Hospital's "Musicman" float, featuring a band in a wooden gazebo watched by people in Victorian outfits, took the theme award.

— Eastover's entry of Mrs. Orville Wright towing her husband's earthbound plane won the special effects award. Eastover had a large number of floats in the parade, but this was the only display entered in the competition.

— The Elks Club won the grand marshal's award with its entry of local Soap Box racers. The German-American Club, with its "Sound of Music" float, was second, and the Lenox Kiwanis Club's Sing Out Lenox float took third in this competition.

— BMC took the mayor's award in addition to the grand award, and Hillcrest Hospital was second.

— St. Charles' Church, with the "It's a Small, Small World" float peopled by Disney characters, took the parade committee award. The Pittsfield Council on Aging, with its tribute to George M. Cohan, was second. Boy Scout Troop 26 of Becket was third.

— Sheffield's entry of a pioneer house complete with children in a loft and a calf grazing out back won the president's award. United Cerebral Palsy's Special Olympics float was second. The Berkshire Ballet dancers were third.

The Southbury (Conn.) Eagles were awarded the trophy for modern fife and drum corps, and the Spirit of '76 from Nassau, N.Y., took the prize for ancient fife and drum units.

The Calendonians of Holyoke won the bagpipe competition, and the Coginchaug Fife and Drum Corps of Durham, Conn., took the prize for the best color guard.

Parade briefs

Among some points of interest in this year's Fourth of July parade were:

— The contrast in firepower between units outfitted as Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers and that of the modern Army's ominous Bradley Fighting Vehicle that was towed along the line of march. The tank-like troop carrier is equipped with gun stabilization units and transmissions built by General Electric in Pittsfield.

— Baton twirlers, once a standby of parades, are not only getting scarce, but they are getting younger, if this parade was any indication. The oldest of this year's group didn't look much more than 11.

— The vehicles accompanying the politicians. U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte was followed by a Jeep. Behind state Sen. Peter C. Webber was an antique Packard four-door convertible. County Treasurer JoAnn Wadsworth was accompanied by an old Thunderbird. State Rep. Sherwood Guernsey was followed by a horse-drawn covered wagon. State Rep. Robert F. Jakubowicz marched without a following vehicle, as did the mayor, City Council and School Committee.

— The masts of Eastover's ship float are set up so that they can be lowered under power lines and they were dipped when they passed the Rainbow Restaurant on First Street.



HILLCREST HOSPITAL'S FLOAT, "The Music Man," won the award for best depicting the parade theme, "America in Song." Concertgoers in Victorian dress on float listen to band in gazebo.



BERKSHIRE MEDICAL CENTER won the grand award for most outstanding float with this depiction of a baseball field and stands. The hospital retired the Al Bianchi Memorial Trophy for winning the award three years in row.



FRESH FROM IOWA, the Colts Drum & Bugle Corps of Dubuque shows the class that captured the top drum corps award in the parade. This was one of three nationally ranked corps brought in from the Midwest by the Parade Committee.



MARCHING TALL AND PROUD, these flag bearers dressed in red are the striking vanguard of the Volunteers Drum & Bugle Corps of Troy, N.Y.

Price of moving mall sculpture sharply reduced

The price of moving the sculpture on Dunham Mall to Berkshire Community College has dropped from $16,510 to $9,900.

The price covers moving the steel sculpture commissioned for the mall from artist Sahl Swarz in 1970, removing the rectangular fountain, filling in the resulting hole and paving the area to match the rest of the mall.

Community Development Commissioner William J. Angelo said the price was lowered through negotiations with the sole bidder on the contract, J.H. Maxymillian Inc. of Lanesboro. The negotiations narrowed the scope of work to be done, something that was possible, he said, because only one bid had been submitted.

The decision to remove the fountain and sculpture was reached after city department heads complained that the fountain, which had been out of order for two years, made the mall difficult to maintain and would be expensive to repair.

At a public hearing last year, downtown merchants said they would prefer an open space that could be used for promotional events.

July 12, 1983

Acting in haste

It will be too bad if, after going to all the trouble of adopting an excellent municipal reorganization plan, Mayor Smith and the City Council proceed to undermine their good work with a salary structure that makes it impossible to attract and hold first-rate department heads. Unfortunately the salary ranges recommended by the Council's Finance Committee this week would tend to do just that. While it may be unrealistic to expect the city to offer the kind of money that comparable positions command in the private sector, the committee would probably have come a lot closer to matching pay levels to responsibilities if it had been willing to follow the advice of Councilor Jim McCaffrey by waiting until job descriptions for the reorganized posts are available.

AUG 6 1983

Miller re-elected to retirement board

Fire Lt. Gerard E. Miller, incumbent employee representative to the Pittsfield Retirement Board, was re-elected yesterday beating C. James Choquette who is employed by the Department of Maintenance at the city garage.

Miller received 319 votes to Choquette's 149, reported Pamela O'Donnell, the retirement board's analyst. Some 38 percent of the municipal employees eligible to vote participated in the election, she said.

Miller's three-year term will expire Sept. 23, 1986.

The Pittsfield Retirement Board is made up of three members, with Nicholas J. Sarro now serving as the government representative; Miller serving as the employee representative, and Joseph H. Cadorette, appointed by the other two, serving as an individual without direct ties to city government.

SEP 21 1983

City employees to hear details of HMO proposal

An informational meeting for city employees on the new Hillcrest Hospital health maintenance organization (HMO) will be held in the Taconic High School auditorium on Thursday at 7 p.m., according to police Officer Robert M. Levesque, chairman of the mayor's Insurance Study Commission.

Levesque urged all city employees to attend the session, which he said will be attended by officials who would explain all aspects of the Hillcrest Community Health Plan.

Levesque said the plan would be offered to city employees as an alternative to their present health insurance coverage by Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

OCT 22 1983

NOV 18 1983

Sons of Italy sets dinner for elderly

For the eighth year, the Sons of Italy Itam Lodge 564 is inviting 225 elderly people to Thanksgiving dinner.

The dinner is intended for people without relatives or friends with whom to spend the occasion.

Director of Community Services Vincent J. Hebert said 167 people have already signed up for the dinner and the remaining 58 places are expected to filled soon.

Anyone interested in attending should sign the reservation book at the Senior Center, 33 Bradford St., before Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Council requests money to scan methane proposal

The City Council Tuesday endorsed and sent to the mayor a request for $15,000 to find out whether it is worthwhile to commission an in-depth feasibility study of tapping methane gas from the old city landfills.

The request was filed by R. James Bridges, an unsuccessful candidate for councilor-at-large and president of Berkshire County Softball Complex Inc., which leases part of the former landfill from the city.

In his election campaign, Bridges called for studying the potential of developing methane gas trapped under the soil as a source of energy and of revenue for the city.

The idea had been broached earlier by contractor Del P. Virgilio. Bridges obtained the $15,000 price for a preliminary study from Vellano-Gannett Energy Development Co. of Latham, N.Y.

The money would buy estimates of the amount and quality of gas beneath the landfill and a recommendation on whether further, more detailed investigation is warranted.

Bridges also recommended appointment of a committee to work on the project. He suggested that members include himself; Virgilio; contractor James H. Maxymillian, who owns part of the former landfill; Ward 3 Councilor Norman W. Cheever, who represents the area; Paul M. Dowd of Western Massachusetts Electric Co., and Ward 2 Councilor Kenneth G. Warren Jr.

Warren, Bridges said, would be useful because of his contacts with the state Department of Energy. As a Council candidate, Bridges said he hoped the city could obtain a state grant to pay for the study.

In his petition to the City Council, Bridges said that "it is conceivable that the appropriation, if approved, can be reimbursed to the city through grants available from the state Department of Energy's programs for development of alternative sources of energy."

DEC 15 1983

Estimates of gas savings are ridiculous, mayor says

Claims that installing a theft-resistant computerized gasoline dispensing system have saved the city $10,000 or $7,600 in three months are preposterous, Mayor Charles L. Smith said yesterday.

He said he has asked Director of Maintenance Ronald H. Spring and Commissioner of Public Works Gerald S. Doyle to assemble accurate figures and expects to have them shortly.

Both At-large City Councilor Peter G. Arlos's claim of $10,000 in savings and At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey's $7,600 figure are based on rough comparisons between dollars spent in the three months since the system went in and dollars spent in the same months last year, Smith said.

"They're comparing money, not gallons," he said. He said the comparison ignores factors that make the figures meaningless. For instance, he said:

— The price the city pays for vehicle fuels is significantly lower than it was during the corresponding months of last year.

— The city has significantly fewer vehicles now.

— More police cruisers have been converted from gasoline to propane fuel, which is not dispensed by the computerized system.

Smith said the implication that city employees had been stealing from $30,000 to $40,000 worth of motor fuel each year "made me see red."

Because the tax-exempt prices the city pays for gas are far less than those charged at gas stations, Smith said, that would truly be theft on a grand scale.

"If that much gas was being stolen, someone would have had to recognize it. There's no way you could steal so much and not have it show up somewhere."

Since the city employs roughly 400 people outside the school and fire departments, which do not yet use the computerized gas-dispensing system, a $40,000-a-year theft loss works out to well over 100 gallons of fuel for each individual on the payroll.

DEC 15 1983

DEC 28 1983

Mayor sees no layoffs in new year

Pittsfield's municipal income is likely to go up by about $500,000 in 1984 — which means, according to Mayor Charles L. Smith, that city employees can celebrate their first new year in about three years free from the fear of layoffs.

"I don't think anyone has to fear like they had to [before] that their name will be on that list of jobs to be eliminated," Smith said yesterday. "It gives the employees in place a feeling of relief."

Nicholas J. Sarro, administration and finance director, presented the city income projections to the City Council last night. The projections assume that Pittsfield will receive about $18.5 million in state aid, $1 million more than this year.

Smith said he believes the assumption is justified, based on his discussions with high state officials. But, he said, even if state aid remains unchanged, "we would still be at the status quo."

Sarro said next year's tax levy, after deducting sewer user fees, will be about $19.8 million compared to this year's $19.3 million. He arrived at that figure by adding the 2.5 percent tax levy increase permitted under Proposition 2½ and another $125,000 gain from an anticipated $5 million in new construction.

Parking lot closed at Onota fishing pier

The Onota Lake parking lot next to the fishing pier at Burbank Park will be closed all winter as it was last winter, according to Parks Superintendent Vincent J. Hebert.

Visitors to the lake will be able to use the north parking lot, access to which is gained via Onota Boulevard off Onota Street, he said.

Barriers have been placed to block off the steep portion of Lakeway Drive leading to the fishing pier lot. In past winters, the department had difficulty keeping this steep and winding roadway plowed and sanded, Hebert said. Sometimes cars had to be abandoned overnight when the road became impassable, he said.

Keeping Onota Boulevard open is much easier because it is straighter and descends to the lake gradually, Hebert said.

JAN 5 1983.



Scraping bottom

FEB 1 1983

A bulldozer from Petricca Construction Co. works on the outlet canal at Pontoosuc Lake. The canal is being deepened 2 feet to allow deeper drawdowns of the lake and the killing of more weeds in winter. Workmen are also shortening the canal by 150 feet, or about half its old length. The canal drains water around the Pontoosuc dam into the Housatonic River.

FEB 7 1983

Picnic pavilion planned at Onota

The Conservation Commission plans to build a picnic pavilion large enough to shelter 200 people on its beach at Onota Lake.

The City Council will be asked tomorrow night to approve a $10,000 appropriation to erect the structure, which will be similar to the pavilion commission Chairman Franklin H. Controy built several years ago at the commission's other major recreation area, Wild Acres off South Mountain Road.

According to commission member James J. Riddle, materials for an all-steel frame have been been donated for the project and the commission has picnic tables to place inside. Bids would be sought on a contract to erect the frame, put on an aluminum roof and install permanent corrugated aluminum sheathing to a height of 3 feet around the sides.

The upper portion of the walls will be in sections that lift out like awnings, opening the 30-by-60-foot pavilion to the air and the view in summer and enabling it to be closed and locked in winter. The awning sections, combined with the lower wall sections, have been designed to keep picnickers dry inside during rainstorms.

Controy's plans include three 10-by-4-foot Lexan windows facing the lake, Riddle said, so the pavilion can be used as an observation post for skating races in winter.

FEB 9 1983

Proposed Onota Lake pavilion receives approval from Council

Over Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman's objection that "this is the wrong time to spend $10,000 on a picnic pavilion," the City Council last night voted 10-1 to do exactly that.

Mrs. Ausman, who voted against the measure, commented that the city is "scrounging money for school athletics and even for teachers" and that "the library is in dire straits."

But her colleagues saw it differently.

Some apparently agreed with At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos that "the cost is minuscule when you consider the enjoyment of the people who will go there." Some apparently agreed with Mayor Charles L. Smith that the pavilion is a bargain because — owing to Conservation Commission Chairman Franklin H. Controy's ability to obtain donations of materials — the city will get a pavilion that would ordinarily cost $30,000 for its money.

But the strongest argument for the pavilion was hinted at in brief testimonials to Controy, who has served on the unpaid Conservation Commission for 23 years and chaired it for 13, who was the driving force (and often the laboring force as well) behind development of the Wild Acres recreation area and the extension of the Onota Lake beach where the pavilion will rise, and who is talking as if he may retire soon.

The Council apparently thought that Controy, who has his heart set on the project, was entitled to his last hurrah.

In answer to an inquiry from Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters, Controy said the pavilion and the entire beach area will be empty daily by 8 p.m. She said some of her constituents who live nearby wanted to be sure there would be a curfew, since groups will be able to rent the pavilion for parties.



Mark Mitchell

Cruising across Onota

APR 25 1983

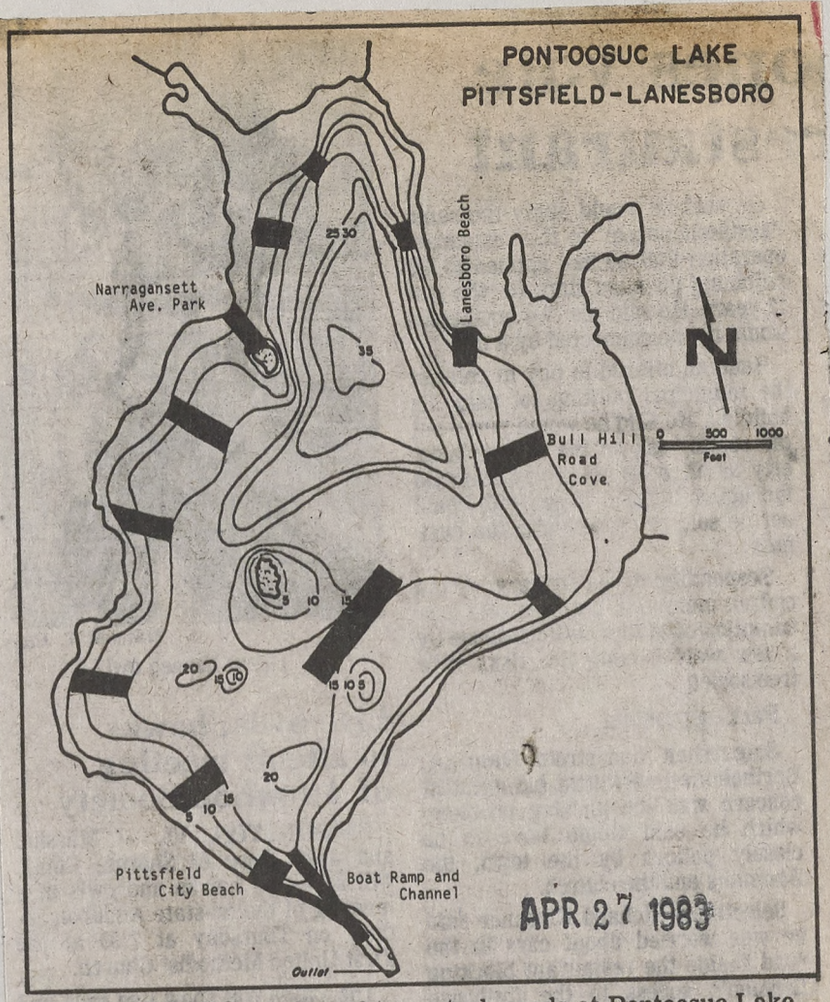
The strain of effort is exhibited on the faces of the Williams varsity heavyweight eight crew team, which placed second to Amherst in Saturday's Little Three regatta on Onota Lake. Results of the regatta are on Page 34.

MAR 16 1983



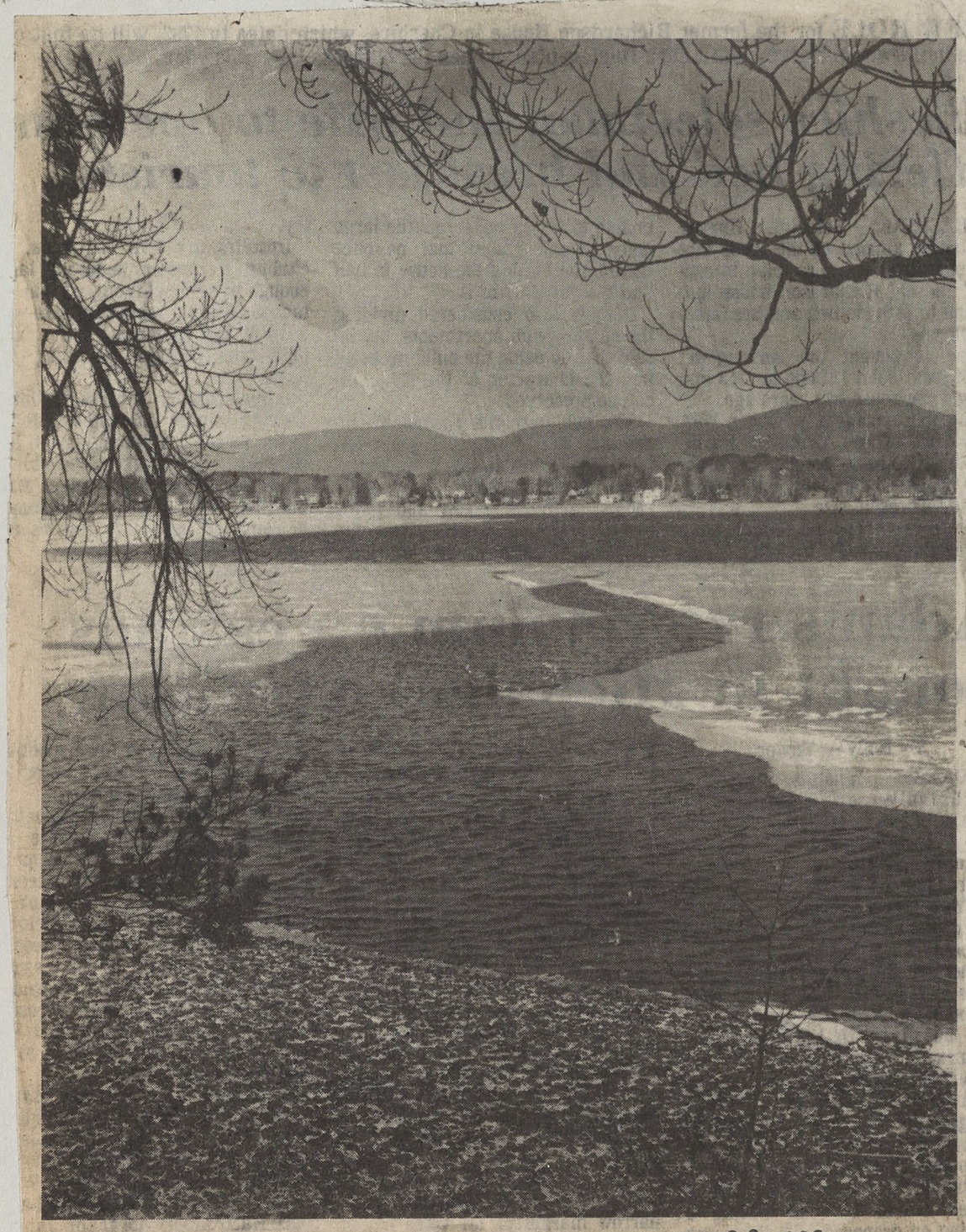
Joel Librizzi

BROOK TROUT numbering 1,000 and measuring nine inches are stocked in Onota Lake at Burbank Park, Pittsfield by David Rose of the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Stocking was yesterday.



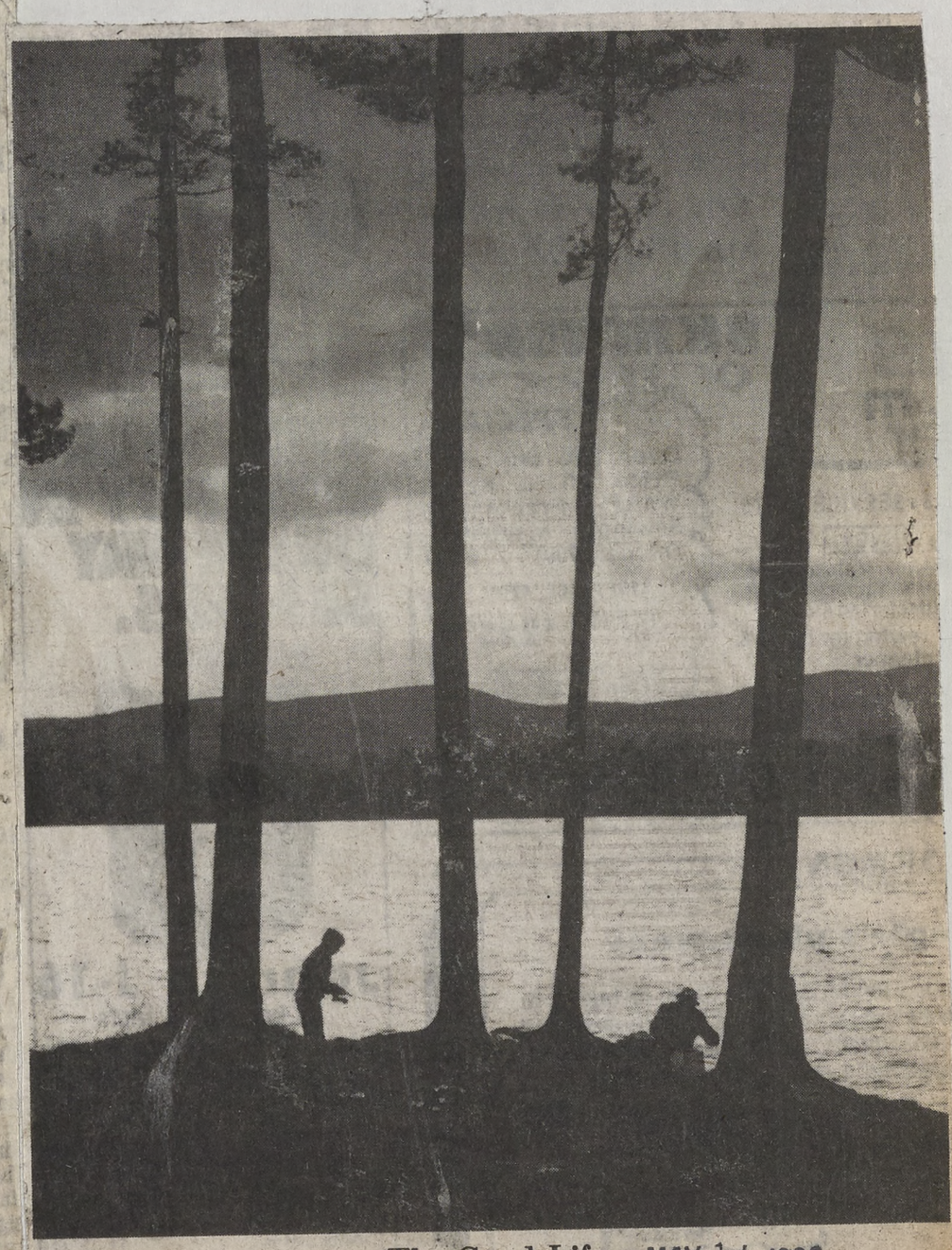
APR 27 1983

CHEMICALS were used to control weeds at Pontoosuc Lake last summer in the areas marked by thick, dark bands on the map. This summer, the County Commissioners have approved treatments in just four areas: Pittsfield City Beach, Narragansett Avenue Park, the boat ramp and boat path near Pittsfield's beach and the boat path by Bull Hill Road cove.



Sign of Spring MAR 26 1983

The annual going-out of the ice at Pontoosuc Lake is well under way, almost a month ahead of usual. Almost half of the lake already is free of ice.



The Good Life MAY 14 1983

Fishermen and tall pines are silhouetted against Onota Lake in a scene that portrays some of the good points of living in the Berkshires.

Pittsfield board bars chemicals for weed control at Pontoosuc

By Alan Cooperman

Pittsfield's Conservation Commission will not allow chemical treatments for weed control in Pontoosuc Lake this summer, members of the board told the County Commission Tuesday.

Franklin H. Controy, chairman of the Conservation Commission, said he was worried that chemical treatments and annual drawdowns used to kill nuisance weeds may cause "irreversible ecological damage" to the lake.

The Conservation Commission will continue to allow drawdowns at Pontoosuc, but only if the county undertakes a thorough study of their impact on fish and wildlife, he said.

The county owns Pontoosuc, which straddles the border between Pittsfield and Lanesboro. The County Commissioners had approved plans to treat portions of the lake this summer with the herbicides Aquathol-K and 2,4-D, but the plans were contingent on authorization from the Pittsfield and Lanesboro conservation commissions.

Four areas of the lake had been slated for treatment: the Pittsfield City Beach, Narragansett Avenue Park, a boat ramp and path at the south end of the lake, and a boat path at Bull Hill Road cove.

William S. Enser Jr. of Lee, the county's consultant on lake management, said yesterday that Pontoosuc has been treated with chemicals each summer for the last four years. The county also has drawn down the lake's water level by about 5 feet each fall for the last three years. The drawdowns kill weeds by exposing them to winter temperatures.

The County Commissioners met for about half an hour Tuesday to discuss drawdowns and chemical treatments at Pontoosuc with representatives of the Pittsfield and Lanesboro Conservation Commissions, Thomas P. Keefe and Leo M. Daly of the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Karl Hekler and Robert Spencer of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission, Associate Professor Stuart D. Ludlum of the University of Massachusetts, UMass zoology graduate student David M. Worden, County Surveyor Robert J. Saulnier and Enser.

Continuing questions

Pittsfield Conservation Commission member George S. Wislocki said that board has been raising questions for three years about the effects of drawdowns on fur-bearing animals, nesting birds, fish and smaller organisms that make up the food chain leading to fish.

"This is the third year we've asked these questions," he said. "We've been very patient. But I think the Conservation Commission is prepared to take the position that unless fundamental research on the impact [of drawdowns] on wildlife [is taken], we're not willing to write an order of conditions" permitting drawdowns to continue.

County Commission Chairman John J. Pignatelli asked if Wislocki or other members of the board knew of any specific, ecological problems caused at Pontoosuc by the drawdowns. Wislocki replied that they did not, but that "the burden of proof" is on the county to prove that there are no harmful consequences.

"When you draw down the lake substantially, there's bound to be an impact" on wildlife, Wislocki said. "It may be positive or negative, but there's got to be an impact of some sort."

Keefe said the division of Fisheries and Wildlife may come up with money this year to begin a study of the impact of drawdowns at Pontoosuc. He said the division's employees in Western Massachusetts have been recommending such a study for years, but that recently "it has finally been impressed upon [higher officials] that we desperately need some research out here."

Pittsfield Conservation Commission member John B. Anthony said he would support the continuation of drawdowns if the county, in cooperation with the division of Fisheries andd Wildlife, began a study of their impact. But, he added, he opposes any more herbicide treatments.

The only Lanesboro Conservation Commission member at the meeting, Elizabeth Bean, said she could not speak for that board because it has not yet voted on whether to allow chemical treatments this summer. "But personally," she said, "I have trouble with the herbicide program."

Anthony suggested that the County Commissioners use the $2,200 they had planned to spend on chemical treatments to help fund the study on drawdowns.

Ludlum, an associate professor of zoology, said after the meeting that there are many graduate students at UMass who would "leap at the opportunity" to study the impact of drawdowns on fish and wildlife at Pontoosuc — if funding for the study were available.

JUN 2 1983

Pittsfield to open beaches

Pittsfield's public beaches at Pontoosuc and Onota lakes will officially open for the summer season at noon Monday, according to John C. Marchesi, Park Department director of recreation.

Marchesi said crews will be working today and tomorrow on the beaches to get them ready for the opening.

JUN 18 1983

Pittsfield to get $10,000 to build picnic facility

Pittsfield will be one of 22 communities sharing $2.6 million worth of federal grants for building and maintaining outdoor recreational facilities.

The $10,000 grant to Pittsfield, one of the smallest, will help fund a new picnic pavilion being constructed at Onota Lake by the city's Conservation Commission. The 1,800-square-foot facility will be erected on the former Ramsey property, which is immediately north of Burbank Park, along the east shore on Onota Lake.

Only one of the grants was smaller than Pittsfield's. Clinton, a suburb of Worcester, received $7,500. The others ranged from $13,000, for Greenfield, to $450,000, for Franklin Park in Boston. Worcester got $352,000, Lynn $227,500.

JUN 18 1983

City receives $10,000 grant for Onota pavilion

The city has received a $10,000 grant to build a picnic pavilion at Onota Lake, according to an announcement by State Sen. Peter C. Webber, R-Pittsfield, and Pittsfield Conservation Commission Chairman Franklin H. Controy.

The money is part of $2.6 million in federal funds coming to Massachusetts in a matching grant program to revitalize parks throughout the state.

Senator Webber, who supported Pittsfield's application to the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, which administers the Massachusetts funds, said work on the 30-by-60-foot pavilion at Ramsey Beach can begin soon and be finished before the end of the summer.

Controy said the site is on 1,200 feet of city-owned beach front administered by the Conservation Commission. He said the pavilion will be able to accommodate 150 people at a time.

Contry added that plans call for the structure to have sides which can be kept raised in good weather and lowered in bad, but that even when the sides are down, picnickers can have a panoramic view of Onota Lake. The side facing the lake will have a 50-foot picture window of half-inch Lexan plastic, he said.

JUN 20 1983



Joel Librizzi

The end of spring

JUN 22 1983

While bathers sun in 80-degree temperatures in the distance, a family picnics above Pontoosuc Lake. It was the last day of spring. Summer officially began at 7:09 last night.



Joel Librizzi

A time to cool off

JUN 24 1983

On a very warm summer's day Rachel O'Connell, Bobby-Jo DiPietro and Rebecca O'Connell, all 4 years old, hurry through the woods to enjoy a cooling swim in Pontoosuc Lake.

Preserve the park at Pontoosuc Lake

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Sunday evening our family took a walk to the public beach at Pontoosuc Lake since we had read in *The Eagle* that it was opening the next day and our children were eager for a swim.

We gingerly picked our way through the soiled diapers, potato chip bags, broken glass and 4-foot-high grass and made our way to the water's edge. Later we trekked through more waist-high grass and swampy mud to the swing area before finally becoming so discouraged we went home, grumbling about how much the beach and park had deteriorated in the four years we had lived in the area.

When we read in Monday's *Eagle* that the city had received a $10,000 grant to build a pavilion at Onota Lake, we were shocked. It would seem that some of this grant would be better spent preserving what we already have before constructing something new.

It is ironic that the city and its officials are constantly trying to promote tourism in this area and yet allow such a beautiful natural asset to become a garbage-strewn, tumbledown, overgrown mudhole.

WILLIAM McDEVITT
ROSEANNE McDEVITT
163 Hancock Road
Pittsfield

JUN 24 1983



JUN 25 1983

Plungers

Now that school is out and hot weather is in, youngsters are having a splashing good time at the Pontoosuc Lake beach.



Hopefuls

JUN 25 1983

Two young fishermen, eagerly awaiting a bite, are reflected in the channel at Pontoosuc Lake.



Hay Day

JUN 25 1983

Two sunbathers at Pontoosuc Lake make a study in elbows and knees in the high grass on the bank of the public beach.



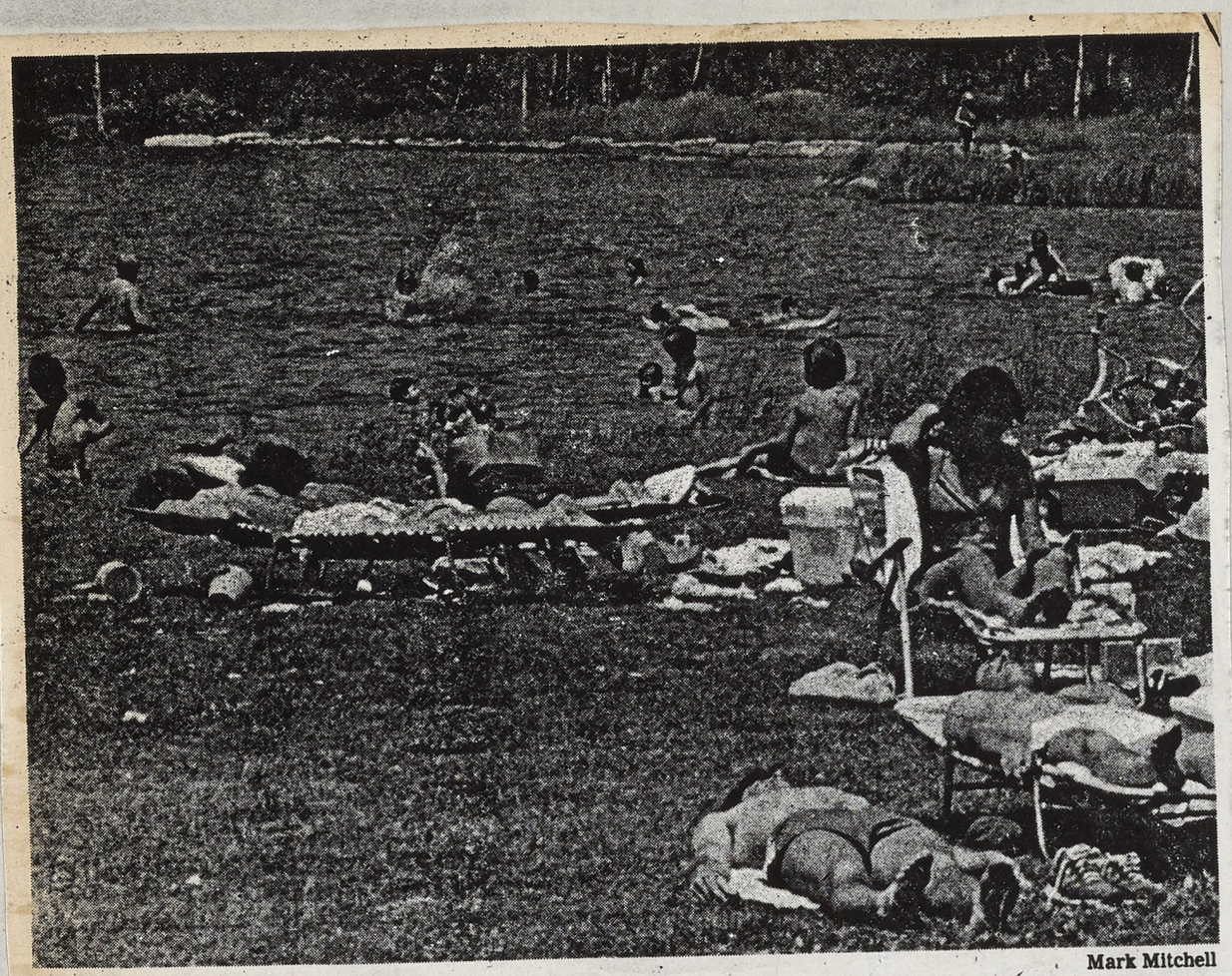
Swim Lesson JUN 25 1983

Baby is getting an early introduction to water sports at the Pontoosuc beach.



Construction Worker

Busy as a beaver, a toddler totes pail of water to site of his sand project on the beach at Pontoosuc Lake. JUN 25 1983

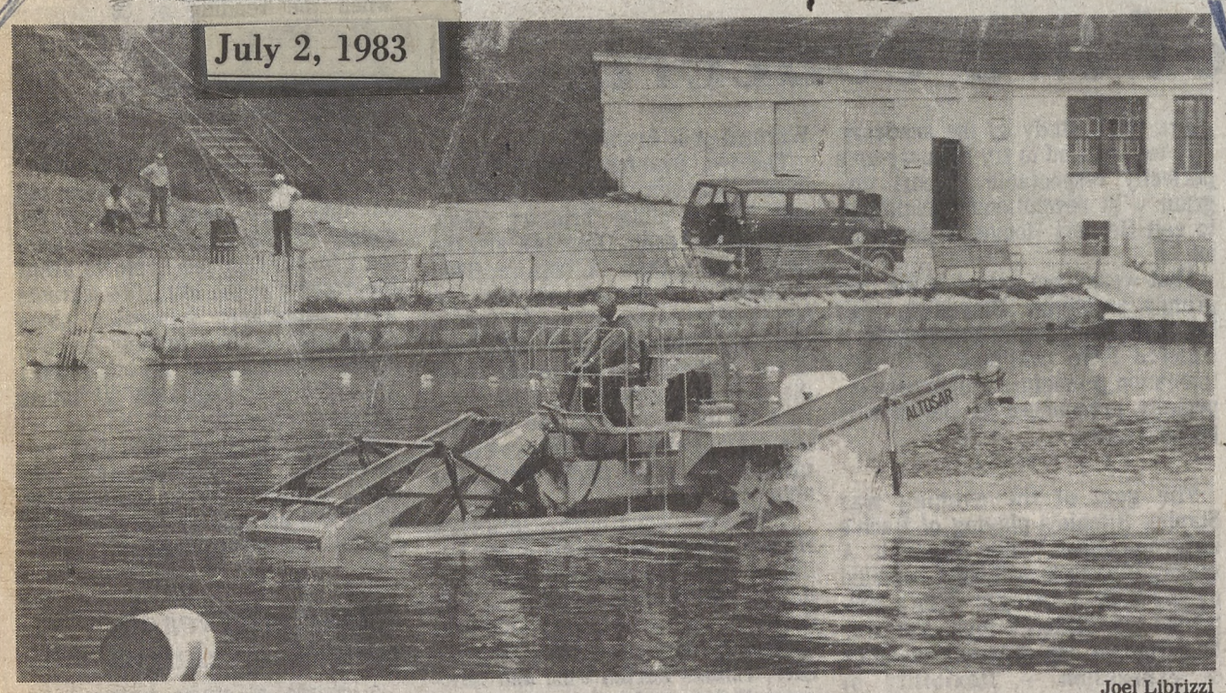


Mark Mitchell

ONOTA LAKE was a popular spot yesterday for residents seeking refuge from the heat. Expected record-breaking temperatures did not materialize, but the high reading of 86 was warm enough. Sunny, breezy and cooler weather is predicted for today.

JUN 24 1983

July 2, 1983



Joel Librizzi

PREPARING for the holiday weekend, a weed cutter churns through Pontoosuc Lake, clearing the way for boaters and swimmers. The County Commission had Allied Biological Inc. of Waltham harvest 6 acres of weeds. The aim is to keep beaches clear through at least July.



Joel Librizzi

GETTING UNDER WAY at Pontoosuc Lake yesterday morning is the Pontoosuc Sailing Club's race committee boat, which carried various state, city and county officials on a tour of the lake to view nuisance weeds.

Officials approach answer to lake weed controversy

By Debra DiMassimo

An informal discussion in the parking lot at Pontoosuc Lake that preceded a boat tour to view weed growth may have succeeded in untangling a dispute between the Pittsfield Conservation Commission and the County Commissioners over drawing down the lake this fall.

The occasion was an inspection of the lake by a representative of the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE), which is involved because the Commissioners appealed the Conservation Commission's refusal to allow the drawdown unless an outline for a proposed study of the impact of drawdowns on fisheries and wildlife is submitted.

However, as the discussion progressed, it became clear that the Conservation Commission was not opposed to a drawdown as such but simply wanted a commitment from the Commissioners that a study will be done. The Commissioners agreed that a study should be done, but displayed reluctance to submit an outline for a study as long as the source of funds for it was not known.

Two developments yesterday suggested that the impasse may be resolved soon. The first was a letter to the Commissioners from Carl S. Prescott, deputy director of field operations for the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, who wrote that the division is currently developing a study outline with the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Fishery and Wildlife Units that should be completed in September.

"As it now appears that this study will take one to two years of predrawdown work and four years of drawdown work," the letter said, "five or six years will be needed to complete the study."

Prescott also wrote that implementation of the study will depend on final cost estimates and approval for federal reimbursement.

Conservation Commission member George S. Wislocki said such an outline would be acceptable to the commission. He questioned why the Commissioners appealed the "rather benign" condition that a study outline be submitted prior to any drawdown.

In the second development, County Commissioner Peter F. Menard suggested a possible source of matching funds for the lake study. He said that when the state assumes responsibility for the county Extension Service in January, approximately $40,000 to $45,000 will be left in the county budget. If the County Advisory Board approves, part of it could be earmarked for a study, he said.

More than 20 people were on hand for the inspection by DEQE representative Thomas J. Orszak, who said a decision on the Commissioners' appeal probably would be issued within 30 days. Among those who attended were members of the County Commission, the Lanesboro and Pittsfield conservation commissions, the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Pontoosuc Lake Advisory Board, the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission and the City Council.

During the tour of the lake, William S. Enser of Berkshire Enviro-Labs of Lee, a consultant to the Commissioners, pointed out areas along the shoreline that were exposed when the lake was drawn down by 5 feet in each of the last four years to freeze and kill the weeds. Weeds in those areas have not grown this year to reach the surface, while some parts of the lake not exposed during the drawdowns are choked with dense masses of weeds, posing a hazard to swimmers, boaters and waterskiers.

Retrieving Burbank Park

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I wonder how many Pittsfield people have stopped swimming or picnicking at our public lake facilities. All summer friends have been telling me that they are building pools because the condition of Pittsfield's lakes and parks is so bad. Only people with nowhere else to go will continue to use the public beaches at Onota and Pontoosuc. With less use, there will be even less attention and money available, causing yet worse conditions at the parks.

A week ago, I took my 3-year-old to Burbank Park in the early afternoon and found the beach littered with masses of unraked weeds. Small children could not play at the water's edge. I spoke to the lifeguard, who seemed to barely notice the weeds. She pointed out that the maintenance men were just then arriving to collect the previous day's piles, reeking in the hot air, with snails and dead fish caught up in the weeds: The men were using their only pitchfork, she said. When they were gone, the lifeguards could use their few tools, once again, to rake up the endless weeds.

My son wouldn't cross the line of weeds to swim, so I took a hot and dirty child home. The next day, as I filled his wading pool, it occurred to me that the lifeguards aren't hired to rake weeds — they are there to guard the swimmers. In fact, in the current environment of Proposition 2½, it is *no* one's job to rake the weeds! The lifeguards just do the best they can because no one else is doing it.

Burbank Park was left behind when local organizations "adopted" parks. It is a beautiful spot, a real treasure of a public park, open to all, free, with gorgeous scenery and only a 7-minute drive from downtown Pittsfield. Are we really willing to abandon it?

According to Indian tradition, Onota is the "Lake of the White Deer," the favorite spot of a pure white doe that was a omen of good fortune. "So long as the snow-white doe comes to drink at Onota . . . so long famine shall not blight the Indian's harvest . . . nor foeman lay waste his country" ("The Berkshire Hills," 1939). The deer was shot, the Indians died away, and we are the "foemen" who are allowing our park to be "laid waste."

Those people who do care about Burbank Park are invited to join me on the beach Friday at 10 a.m. (in case of a downpour, same time Saturday). Bring rakes, pitchforks and wheelbarrows. If we can set up crews of volunteers to rake daily, we will begin to take back our park.

ALISON H. BOWEN
7 Students Lane
Pittsfield

AUG 3 1983

Burbank Park needs rehab

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Now that someone has finally taken the initiative to publicize the deplorable conditions at Burbank Park [Letters, Aug. 3], I feel a responsibility to add my comments. Whenever my family and I visit the park for a swim, the water is always cool and refreshing, but the floating weeds and general condition of the beach and picnic areas are an irritation.

In the water I can tolerate a few floating weeds. When they are left strung along the beach after washing ashore, I find this intolerable. These weed piles stink, draw flies and add to the shabby look of the beach area.

Along with the weed problem, there are the matters of filthy, dilapidated restrooms, lack of a decent bathhouse to change in and a poorly maintained beach area behind the seawall.

Every time I go to Burbank Park, I am reminded that it is one of the most beautiful locations in Berkshire County (and probably the state). It has degraded because of the neglect and apathy of those responsible for its maintenance. I cannot believe there isn't the scant amount of manpower available to clean up the weeds and rake the beach periodically during the day.

There are plans to construct a picnic pavilion at the park. Instead of ruining a picturesque setting with this type of structure, the money should be used to revitalize the park. For example, the existing picnic tables could be replaced, playground equipment purchased, a better bathhouse built, the restrooms renovated and fresh sand (in sufficient quantities) purchased to resand the beach area, both in the water and out.

It's about time Pittsfield started taking more pride and proper care of its recreation areas. Burbank Park should be the flagship of the park system, and it could be with some effort.

JOHN J. MAHONEY
31 Stanley Ave.
Pittsfield

AUG 9 1983

JUL 30 1983

Hours are changed for beach supervision

Starting Monday, the public beaches at Onota and Pontoosuc lakes will be supervised from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week, Recreation Director John C. Marchesi has announced.

Marchesi said the hours were formerly noon to 8 p.m. but have been changed for the remainder of the summer season because it is getting dark earlier in the evening.

AUG 15 1983

Looking Back

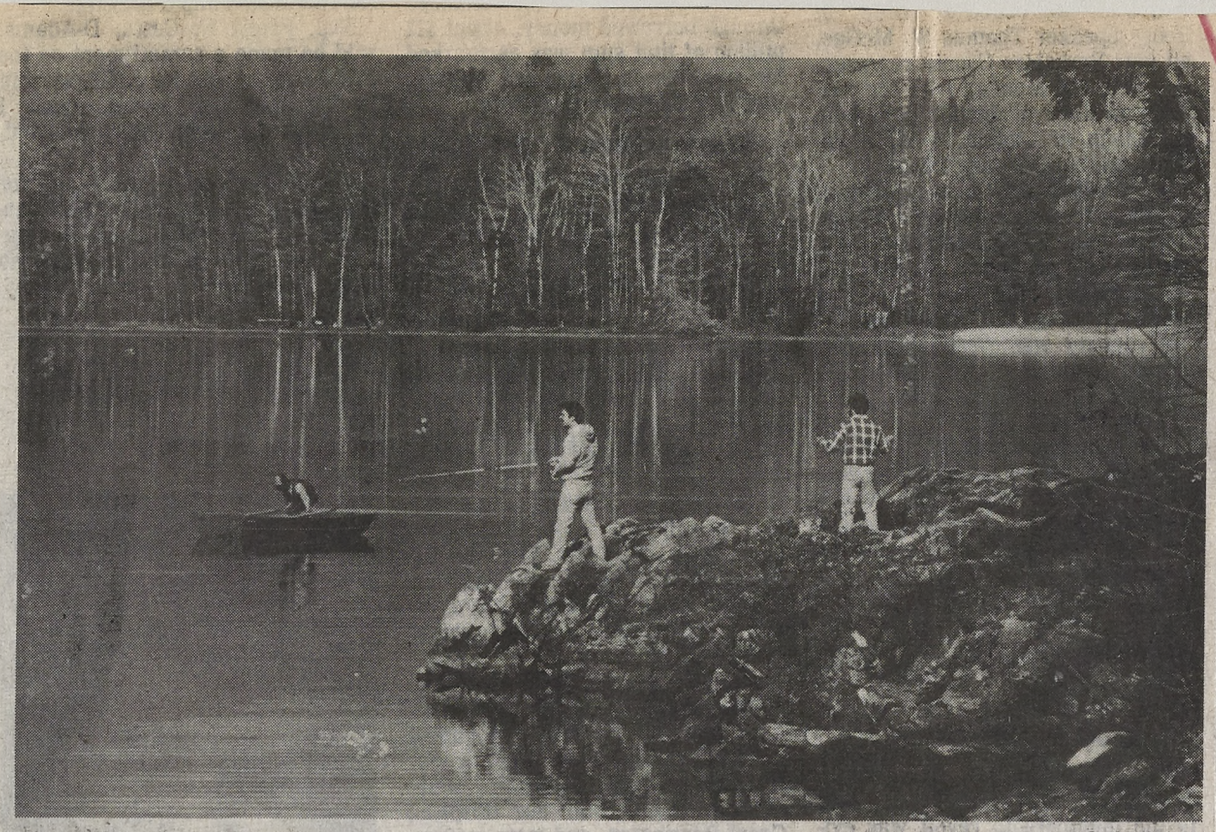
50 Years Ago

A kite flown by James Hanna won first prize as the most unique in the citywide playground kite tournament at Deming Playground. Second prize went to Paul Grieger and third to Buddy Harris.



Willowy

Framed by the dangling boughs of a weeping willow, a willowly lass is the focus of attention in this picture taken some years ago at Pontoosuc Lake.



Joel Librizzi

SPRINGLIKE DAY lured these two fishermen and a boater to Onota Lake yesterday, where they basked in temperatures recorded as high as 55 in the city. The weatherman promises more sunny and mild temperatures today.

NOV 9 1983

JAN 12 1983

Greenhouse Group announces lectures

The Springside Greenhouse Group spring program schedule of guest lectures was announced today by Ms. Esther Loucks, publicity chairman.

Dick Boyce of the Berkshire County Extension Service will speak on perennials Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. The Eagle gardening columnist will discuss the home greenhouse at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26.

Dr. Jon Valigorsky will speak on rhododendrons Feb. 9; Garry Lahey of Dr. Garry's Gardens will discuss plant diseases Feb. 23, and Professor E. Gilbert will speak on begonias April 13.

The public is invited without charge.

The group will have its annual open house and plant sale March 20.

FEB 21 1983

Greenhouse Group offers scholarship

A $500 scholarship is being offered by the Springside Greenhouse Group to students at Pittsfield, St. Joseph's and Taconic high schools and Berkshire Community College who are interested in pursuing a career in horticulture or related fields.

The scholarship comes from the Nicholas Debacher Memorial Scholarship Fund. Debacher was an active member of the group for many years before his death.

Applications are available in the guidance departments of the high schools and in the financial aid office at Berkshire Community College. Deadline for submission of applications is March 15.

Greenhouse Group to hear Garry Lahey

Plant diseases will be the subject of a lecture by Garry Lahey at this week's meeting of the Springside Greenhouse Group. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the greenhouse, and the public is invited.

Mr. Lahey, who holds a doctorate in plant pathology from the University of Massachusetts, owns and operates Dr. Lahey's Garden, a garden and gift shop.

FEB 21 1983

Springside group invites public to talk on begonias

Begonias will be the subject of a lecture by Professor H. Gilbert Harlow at this week's meeting of the Springside Greenhouse Group tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.in the greenhouse. The public is invited.

Professor Harlow, who teaches in the engineering department at Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., has been working on developing and hybridizing new begonia strains for more than 30 years. His primary objective has been to establish a strain that will provide optimum flower formation and color and be vigorous enough to survive in this climate. Mr. Harlow does his work with begonias at Koral Gardens in Pattersonville, N.Y.

APR 12 1983



Joel Librizzi

SETTING up exhibit for the annual Springside Greenhouse Group's annual open house Sunday from 10 to 4 are Patricia Pietrowsky, chairman of the open house, and Chester Gabriel, chairman of decorations and displays.

Habitat

Exhibits set up at greenhouse

The Springside Greenhouse Group's annual open house will be Sunday from 10 to 4 in the greenhouse behind the Department of Parks and Recreation at 874 North St. "Think Spring" is the theme selected by club members.

Featured at this year's open house is a Victorian spring garden designed and built by Patricia and Joseph Pietrowsky. Chester Gabriel decorated the latticework and area that make up the display.

Orin McCarty will display his collection of bonsai; Elvira Terranova will be on hand with her collection of herbs and items made from herbs; terrariums made by members of the group from materials gathered in the forests will be shown, and houseplants and handmade wreaths will be sold.

Club members will be available to talk about plants they have grown over the winter months, most of which were started from seed or cuttings. Visitors will see what can be done by amateurs under the direction and instruction of experts in the field of horticulture.

Mrs. Pietrowsky is chairman of this year's open house; Mary Anne Jones, co-chairman; McCarty, plant sales; Gabriel, decorations; Ruth Austin, hostesses, and Esther Loucks, refreshments.

Springside tulips approach full bloom

Tulips in the public gardens at Springside Park are expected to be in full bloom this weekend, the Park Department has announced.

The Springside Park Greenhouse Group will hold an open house Sunday from 10 to 4 in the greenhouse adjacent to the gardens, which are located at 874 North St. Fuschias and ivy geraniums grown by members of the Greenhouse Group will be on sale.

MAY 11 1983

SEP 21 1983

Springside Group names officers, plans meetings

Springside Greenhouse Garden Group today announced officers and plans for September.

Mrs. Pat Pietrowski will speak on "Propagation-Cuttings" at a meeting

tonight at 7:30 at Springside House, and, on Sept. 28 at 7:30, Orin P. McCarty will speak on "Preparation and Potting."

Meetings are open to the public without charge.

William E. Flynn was elected president at a recent meeting. Other officers named were Mrs. Elvira Terranova, vice president; Mrs. Mary Anne Jones, treasurer; Mrs. Judy MacCartney, assistant treasurer; Mrs. Pietrowski, secretary; Mrs. Ruth Austin, assistant secretary.

Committee chairmen are Mrs. Austin, membership; Mrs. Terranova, house; Mrs. Toby Hekler, watering; Ms. Josie Pierson, publicity; Mrs. Jeanne Zdanis, program; Mr. McCarty, plant sales; Ms. Pietrowski, community services; Ms. Vivian Schilling, nominating; Ms. Esther Loucks, scholarships, and Ms. Pierson and Ms. Gerry Shepard, refreshments.

The group met on Sept. 14 for orientation of new members.

MAR 22 1983

Springside gardeners to hear Dr. Valigorsky

Rhododendrons will be the subject of a lecture by Dr. Jon Valigorsky at a meeting of the Springside Greenhouse Group Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the greenhouse. The public is invited.

Dr. Valigorsky, who is a pathologist at Berkshire Medical Center, has been raising rhododendrons as a hobby for some time.



Joel Librizzi

It's tulip time

MAY 14 1983

If the weather this weekend lives up to the forecast, the tulips in Pittsfield's Springside Park should be in full bloom. Previewing the display yesterday was 3-year-old Christy-Lynne Holmes of 60 Elizabeth St., with her father, Wayne Holmes.

PHS baseball team opens tomorrow with game at Chatham

An independent game between Pittsfield High and Chatham (N.Y.) High tomorrow will open the area high school baseball season.

PHS and Chatham will meet at 4 at Chatham. They will also meet in Pittsfield's home opener Wednesday at Clapp Park.

The game tomorrow will mark the head coaching debut of new PHS mentor Bob Moynihan. He replaces 19-year veteran coach George "Bud" Pellerin, who did not reapply for the post this spring. Moynihan has served as assistant coach for the past four seasons.

Pittsfield posted a record of 16-3 last year, placing second behind Hoosac Valley in the Berkshire Hills Conference Northern Division standings before going on to win the Western Mass. Division 1 championship.

A number of county teams will open their seasons with independent games next week. Berkshire Hills Conference play is set to begin Saturday, April 23.

APR 7 1983

CITY OF PITTSFIELD
LICENSING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that an application for transfer of license for the sale of wine and malt and summer seasonal all alcoholic beverages as a Package Store during the year 1983 from Charles L. & Patricia Smith, dba, Lakeside Package and Variety, 182 Hancock Rd., to Palmers, Inc., 221 Elm Street, has been filed with this Board by Lawrence Palmer, Manager. The premises consist of one floor, one room open area; cellar used for storage purpose only. Said application will be considered at a meeting of this Board at City Hall, Hearing Room 212 on April 19, 1983 at 7:30 P.M.

Anthony J. Ruberto
Chairman

April 7, 1983



Mark Mitchell

Batter up

APR 11 1983

Pre-season game at Clapp Park Saturday had Darryl Blanks of Hudson (N.Y.) High School at the plate. He got a hit. Behind the plate is Chuck Gaylord of Taconic High School. That's the visitors' bench in the background.

WEST STATE SOCCER: Pittsfield Itam and Teo's Internationals will both be in action tomorrow as the West State Soccer League opens its 1983 spring season. Itam will host Lamolisana of Springfield in a 2:30 game at Clapp Park, and Teo's will visit the Worcester Scans at 3 p.m. at Scans Park. Formerly a two-division, 12-team league, it will operate as a one-division, 10-team league this season.

APR 9 1983

* * * *

RUGBY: The Berkshire Rugby Football Club, 1-1 this spring, will play its season home opener this afternoon at 1 at Sackett Brook Park against Colgate University. The game will be played on the rear field at the park.

APR 9 1983



Bob McDonough

PUSHED AWAY from the ball, and into the mud by a Colgate player is Berkshire Rugby Football Club center Kevin Bradley, left, while Berkshire teammate Rob Cassidy moves in at right. Berkshire won its home opener, 13-0, at Sackett Brook Field Saturday.

APR 11 1983



Joel Librizzi

APR 13 1983

Sign of spring Pittsfield High School baseball players were out for some practice yesterday afternoon at Clapp Park.

Softball, tennis on tap today in school sports

The high school softball season opens with two non-league games, and all eight high school tennis teams swing back into action this afternoon.

St. Joseph's and defending division champions McCann and Pittsfield High will help open the softball season. McCann, the defending county and Southern Division champion, will host Mohawk Trail in a 3:45 game at Greylock Field in North Adams. Pittsfield, the defending Northern Division champion, visits St. Joseph's in a 4 p.m. game at Springside Park.

Several independent games and a sprinkling of league contests will precede the first full day of league play April 25.

In today's 4 p.m. tennis matches, the four first-day winners will go head to head, as Lee visits Mount Greylock and Pittsfield hosts Drury. The other matches feature Taconic at Hoosac Valley and Monument Mountain at Wahconah.

APR 14 1983



APR 15 1983

Bob McDonough

CLOSE PLAY at home plate drew a lot of spectator attention yesterday at Lakewood Field, as St. Joseph's Amy Vosit (14) scores on a wild pitch by Taconic's Shenna Parzick, who loses her hat in unsuccessful attempt to tag Vosit out. Taconic catcher at right is D.J. Bertoldi. Braves won season opener, 14-13.



Joel Librizzi

It's a 12-wheeler

APR 23 1983

Baby-sitting is an easier chore if you can make a game out of it. Six-year-old Megan Bachand drew the baby-sitting assignment yesterday, but that didn't keep her from roller-skating on the Common. It was the first nice day, and also the last day, of the annual spring school vacation in Pittsfield.



Bob McDonough

Group effort

APR 25 1983

Even Pittsfield High coach Bob Moynihan, foreground, and umpire Joe Woitkowski, right, grabbed rakes and got into the act Saturday as the Department of Parks and Recreation fell behind schedule in preparing Clapp Park for Pittsfield's baseball game with Drury. The start of the game was delayed by one hour, 11 minutes.



APR 26 1983

Bob McDonough

GAME OF PEPPER is still a widely used pre-game warm-up for high school teams, as shown here by members of the PHS varsity while Clapp Park was being prepared for their game with Drury. Sean McMahon holds the bat while his teammates chase his best efforts. Other players are, from left to right, Ken Ferris, Paul Gaylord, Tim Gauthier, Dave Bertolozzi, Craig Turnbull and Leo Fairbanks.

APR 30 1983



Bob McDonough

ALL EYES were on the third-base line as St. Joseph's pitcher Amy Vosit picked up this well-placed bunt by Wahconah's Heather Lear during yesterday's softball game at Springside Park. Lear beat it out for one of her four bunt singles that helped Wahconah win 17-7. Others in photo are umpire Dave Blanchette, St. Joe catcher Nancy Gleason (18) and St. Joe third baseman Tess Sluka (9).

MAY 3 1983

Virgilio awarded Springside Park job

The Park Commission voted last night to award a contract for improvements at Springside Park to the low bidder, Virgilio Construction Co. of Pittsfield.

Virgilio entered a bid of $19,437.50 for the work, which involves improving a gravel road from North Street to the Springside Children's Zoo and constructing a blacktopped sidewalk along it. Virgilio specified a construction period of 30 days.

Other bidders were J.H. Maxymillian Inc. of Lanesboro, which bid $23,683 and said the work would be done in 30 days, and Petricca Construction Co. of Pittsfield, which bid $33,220 and specified a 45-day work period.

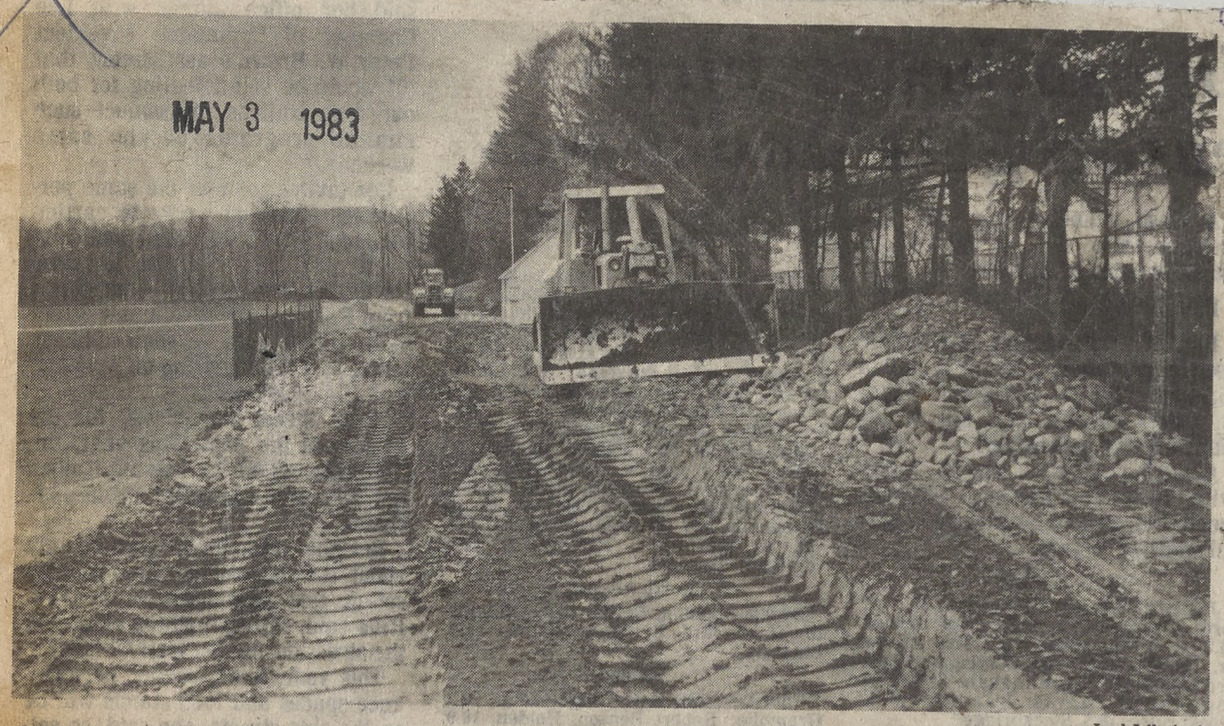
25 Years Ago

The Park Commissioners appointed Thomas McDonough, Marsha Laycock and Elbert Morgan as leaders and Dorothy Fedoryshyn, Barry Levine, Francis Lipari, Philip Messer and Joseph Metallo as assistant leaders of the city's playgrounds for the summer season.

Butler's family clothing store at 196 North St. closed up shop after 25 years.

MAY 5 1983

MAY 3 1983



Joel Librizzi

UNDER CONSTRUCTION at Clapp Park is an access road that will be used by J.H. Maxymillian Inc., contractor for an Army Corps of Engineers flood protection project at the rear of the park. Once the project is done, the road will be available for park use. The contractor is also using fill from the work site to build a parking lot for park users, at no cost to the city.



MAY 14 1983

Spring Practice

Batter on the Common gets instruction from coach while catcher does stretching exercise. Candidates for teams in the various midget-type baseball leagues are working feverishly these days, hoping to make it as starters.

MAY 1 [illegible] 1983

50 Years Ago

Fred T. Francis Jr. was named chairman of the Citizens' Playground Committee, organized to carry on volunteer recreational supervision of city playgrounds for the summer.

MAY 23 1983

AUG 4 1983

25 Years Ago

Denis J. Duquette, a native of Dalton, was appointed to the faculty at Dalton High School to teach English and social studies in the junior high division.

Tom Stanton, Steve Hibbard, Gil Blake, Carolyn Lewis and Jane Morris were awarded trophies at the conclusion of the Department of Parks and Recreation's junior tennis tournament.

10 Years Ago

AUG 8 1983

Philip Daoust and Lisa Battaglino of Root Park were crowned king and queen of the city's playgrounds before a crowd of 250 in the North Junior High School auditorium.

The opening of Luis Bunuel's "Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie" marked the 25th year of the Berksire Museum's Little Cinema.

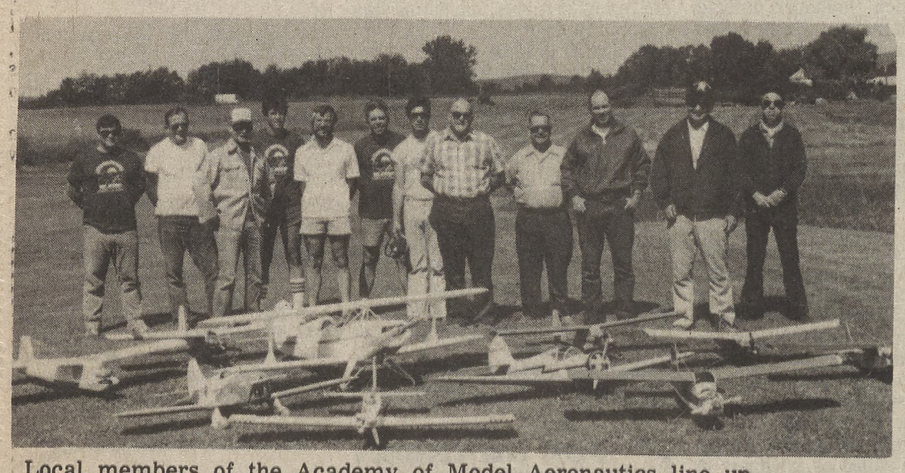
25 Years Ago

Mrs. Elizabeth Abetti, Diane Bulgarelli, Thomas Griswold, Winifred Keane, Paul Marino, Mary Ann McLaren, Mrs. Irma Smith, Susan Smith and Jacqueline Abbott, Berkshire County students at the Berkshire Music Center, were awarded Berkshire scholarships to the Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer school at Tanglewood.

Pamela Rowe, 13, and Susan Anderson, 11, won the crazy-hat contest at Root Playground.

AUG 9 1983

Those fabulous men . . .



Local members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics line up proudly behind their flying machines.



Bruce Shepardson, also a real-life pilot, guides his plane in for a landing on the mowed field. Shepardson has flown this particular plane more than 850 flights without major mishap.

. . . and their flying machines

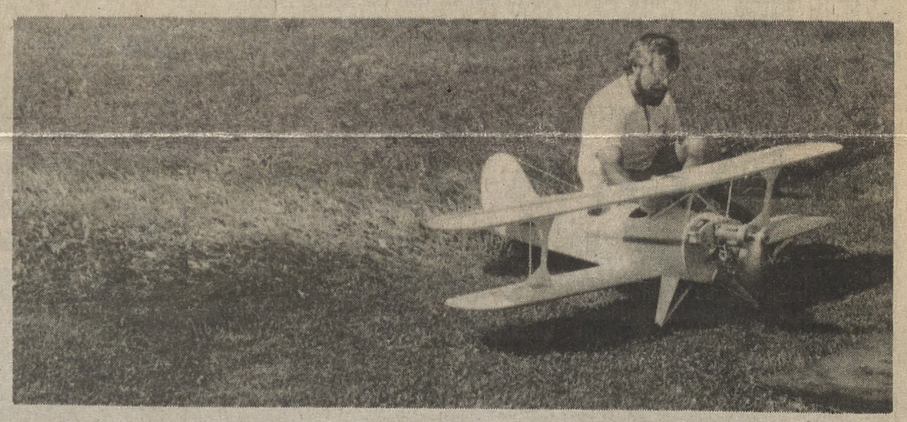
Someone's witty grandmother once remarked, "The only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys." Judging by the enthusiasm that fills Pittsfield's Brattlebrook Park almost every Sunday morning in the summer, a dozen fully grown males, members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, probably would agree with her.

But the radio-controlled planes these men build and fly are a far cry from anything toylike, and the love of flying them cuts through many strata of society. Pilots include the French horn player of the New York state Empire Brass Quintet, Pittsfield's city health inspector, a New England Telephone Co. repairman, GE naval ordnance workers, a House of Correction guard, a supplier of building products and a contractor.

Most plane kits are exact replicas of full-scale machines and average $250 in price. After hundreds of hours' building time between early fall and late spring, the builders go through a kind of metamorphosis and experience the thrill of seeing their handiwork become skyborne.

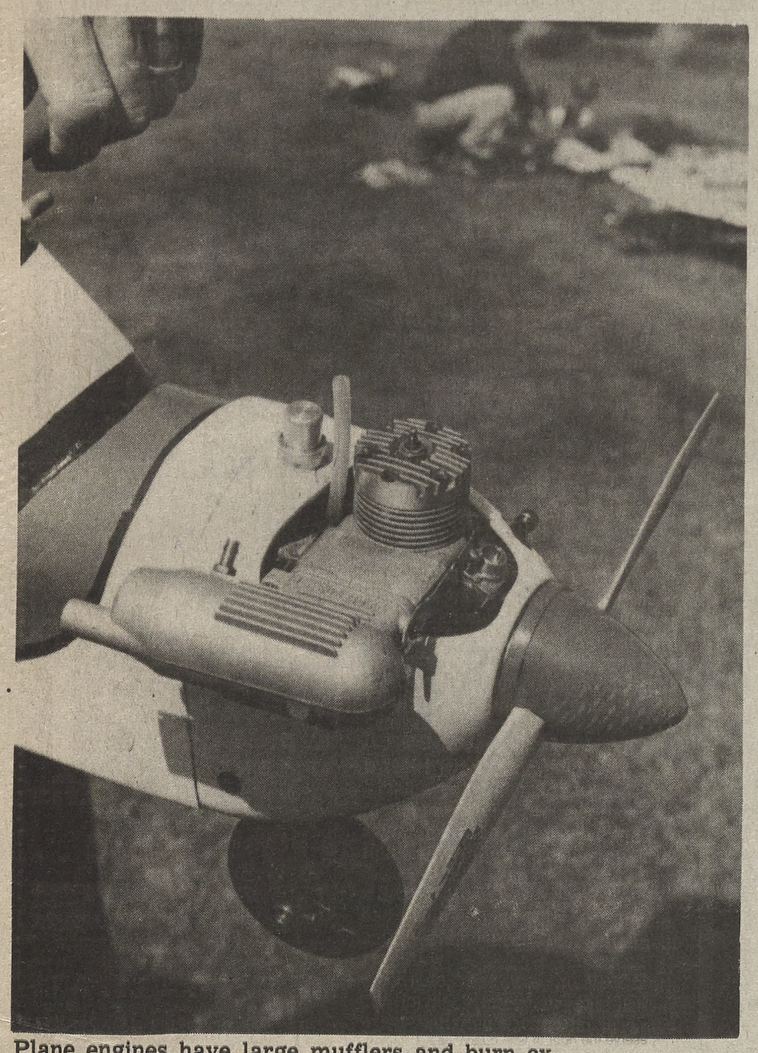
The Steen Skybolt, the larger-scale biplane pictured on this page, took two men almost four years to complete. This, alone, could easily put a price tag of more than $10,000 on the plane.

Because the flying season is short, most builders spend every available weekend flying, but according to rumor, one pilot has the bug so bad he equips his plane with skis and flies off the snow-covered lakes during the winter.

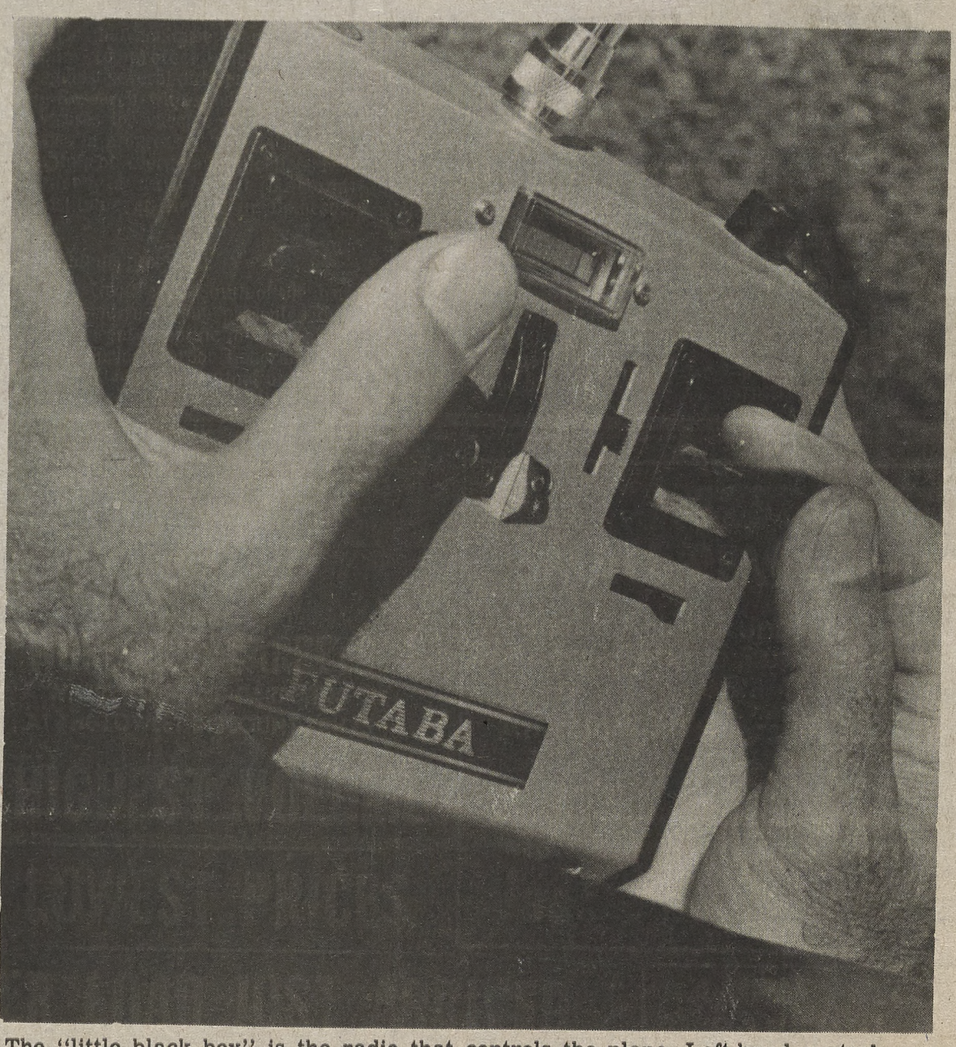


The Steen Skybolt, built by Stephen E. D'Angelo and Francis Wojcik, is prepared for its maiden flight by D'Angelo. The 3½-hp engine puts out as much power as a rotary lawn mower. Notice strength of prop-wash in grass behind plane.

Photos and text by Warren D. Fowler



Plane engines have large mufflers and burn exotic fuels costing $10 per gallon. Small tanks hold enough fuel for about a 10-minute flight with engines turning over about 12,000 rpm.



The "little black box" is the radio that controls the plane. Left-hand controls throttle speed, right controls flight pattern. Pilots wear digital watches with stopwatch functions so they can land planes before running out of fuel.

Easter egg hunt to be Sunday in Reid schoolyard

The annual dash to collect plastic Easter eggs filled with candy and other surprises will begin promptly at 3 Sunday behind Reid Middle School, co-sponsored by the Pittsfield Park Department and the Exchange Club.

Children should bring their own baskets or bags. They will be divided into four age groups: 2 years and under; 3 and 4 years; 5 and 6 years, and 7, 8 and 9 years. Prizes will be awarded in each age division to those finding the largest, smallest, golden, silver and black eggs.

In addition, Emmon E. Walton of the Pittsfield Pizza Hut has filled 150 plastic eggs with certificates for pizza and another 150 with coupons for free soft drinks.

Twitch the Easter Bunny will greet the children and hand out eggs to those who are 2 years old and younger.

Immediately after the egg hunt, Twitch will visit the pediatrics ward of Berkshire Medical Center to hand out more eggs.

APR 1 1983

Egg hunt rescheduled for Sunday afternoon

The annual Easter egg hunt, postponed because of bad weather, will be held Sunday afternoon at 3 in the fields behind Reid Junior High School, weather permitting.

The Department of Parks and Recreation announced the new date yesterday.

APR 5 1983

APR 6 1983

25 Years Ago

A steady downpour of rain failed to affect church attendance or eliminate the wearing of Easter finery. However, it forced the Pittsfield Park Department to postpone the annual egg roll and eliminated the usual afternoon parade of fashions on North Street.

Easter egg hunt, twice postponed, is canceled

Pittsfield's annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Park Department and the Exchange Club, canceled twice because of bad weather, will not be rescheduled, the Park Department has announced.

Recreation supervisor Linda M. Murphy said the plastic eggs filled with candy and coupons for free pizza and sodas from Pizza Hut will be emptied and their contents distributed to local youth agencies: the Catholic Youth Center, Boys' Club, Girls Club, YMCA and the Christian Center.

Last Sunday, Twitch the Easter Bunny visited children in the pediatrics ward at Berkshire Medical Center.

APR 13 1983

10 Years Ago

Between 1,200 and 1,500 children and parents turned out for the annual city Easter egg hunt on the fields of North Junior High School in ideal weather conditions that pushed the mercury to 83 degrees, a record high for the date.

Berkshire Life Insurance Co. employees Miss Suzanne F. Higgins and Terrence J. Chiaretto were promoted from programmer analysts to systems analysts in computer services, and Robert N. Willis was named an actuarial staff assistant.

APR 22 1983

Halloween party scheduled by CYC

Catholic Youth Center will hold a Halloween party Friday, Oct. 28, from 4:30 to 6:30 for children in Grades 1 through 6 who are CYC members. Admission will be free.

There will be costume judging, games, prizes, a haunted house and refreshments.

The CYC says children must sign up in advance.

OCT 22 1983

Trick or treat set for Oct. 30 in Adams

ADAMS — Trick or Treat will be Sunday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the same day as the annual Lions Club Halloween parade for local children.

The Selectmen last week scheduled Trick or Treat and said the two-hour period should provide adequate time for youngsters to go door to door.

The Lions Club parade will start at 1 p.m. on Hoosac Street, proceed south on Park Street and end in the Berkshire Bank & Trust branch parking lot, where refreshments will be served and prizes awarded.

OCT 20 1983

OCT 20 1983

Trick-or-treat night scheduled for Oct. 30

Trick-or-treat night in Pittsfield has been scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 30, from 5 to 7, the mayor's office and the Recreation Department have announced.

The mayor and the Park Commission have suggested that children stay in their own neighborhoods and refrain from eating any treats until they can be inspected at home. They have also urged parents to accompany their children to ensure their safety.

vate the

Meeting Monday to plan for parade

The final meeting in preparation for the 39th annual Pittsfield Halloween Parade will be Monday evening at Springside House at 874 North St., the Recreation Department said yesterday.

Band judges will meet at 7, persons involved with floats at 7:30 and bands and marching units at 8.

The parade is scheduled Oct. 31 at 7 p.m.

OCT 22 1983

Halloween party planned at YMCA

The Pittsfield YMCA Youth Department and the Pittsfield Department of Recreation will co-sponsor a Halloween costume party for youths ages 6 to 12 Saturday from 2 to 4 at the YMCA.

Under the direction of the YMCA Leaders Club, partygoers will participate in traditional Halloween games, swimming and other organized activities. Refreshments will be served.

The party is open to the public, but each child must register by visiting or calling the YMCA Youth Department on or before Friday. The program is free to YMCA youth members and 50 cents for non-member guests.

OCT 27 1983

Halloween parade set for Oct. 31

The 39th annual Halloween parade sponsored by the Pittsfield Recreation Department and The Berkshire Eagle will be Monday, Oct. 31, at 7 p.m.

Local organizations are invited to enter floats and/or marching units. All entries must have a Halloween theme.

Parade participants are asked to send a representative to an organizational meeting scheduled for Monday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m. for floats and 8 p.m. for bands and marching units. The meeting will be held at Springside House, 874 North St.

SEP 24 1983

OCT 27 1983

25 Years Ago

Laurie Ramsey, Nancy Zink, David Zink, Karen Knight, Macaire Rossi, Jean Knight, Paul Santi and Aleta Hermann were awarded prizes for pumpkins they entered in the annual pumpkin-carving contest sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Jaycee-Ettes.

OCT 28 1983

10 Years Ago

Bruce Swanson, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford W. Swanson of 59 Hamlin St., was the grand-prize winner of the Department of Parks and Recreation pumpkin contest.

Girls Club has Halloween party

Frankie Fischer, 5, was judged the youngster with the most original costume at the Girls Club's Halloween Party Thursday. Shenna Bradford, 7, had the funniest costume, Jamie Smith, 7, the scariest, and Vicki Bilski, 6, the prettiest.

Seven-year-old Alisha Kerichenko's costume was judged best of show, according to Sara Patella, associate director. Judges were William Moesley and Susan Patella. There were 143 children at the party.

Sponsors were the Girls Club and city Department of Recreation. Bank of Boston-Berkshire and Berkshire County Savings Bank donated trick-or-treat bags and prizes.

NOV 5 1983

Halloween party tonight at Boys' Club

Pittsfield Boys' Club will hold its annual Halloween costume party tonight from 6 to 8. It will be open to all youngsters from 6 to 13 years old, says Peter E. Bell, program director.

Movies, a ghost walk, games, food, costume judging and prizes are planned. Tickets at 75 cents apiece can be purchased at the main desk. The party will be supervised by senior leaders and vocational instructors.

All who attend must wear costumes, said Bell. The Boys' Club and Department of Recreation are sponsoring the party.



Great Expectations

Wide-eyed youngsters edge out into North Street during the 1957 Halloween parade as the alarm is given that awful monsters are approaching. This year's parade, the 39th, will be Monday night starting at 7.

OCT 29 1983

Winners are urged to pick up prizes

The Department of Recreation said yesterday that all youngsters who won costume prizes in the annual Halloween parade should pick up their prize at the Recreation Department office at 874 North St. before 5 p.m. tomorrow. The Halloween Committee has extended the deadline one week.

NOV 10 1983

OCT 29 1983

Pittsfield Halloween parade will be back on North Street

There will be no trick this year to following the bands, floats and groups of costumed children marching in Pittsfield's 39th annual Halloween parade, which will kick off Monday at 7 p.m.

Last year, the parade had to be detoured onto First Street to avoid the North Street bridge reconstruction project. This year's spectacle will follow the traditional route along North Street to Wahconah Park and the reviewing stand will be in front of Appliance World near Eagle Street.

Grand marshal for the event, which is sponsored by the Recreation Department and The Berkshire Eagle, will again be Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano.

Floats built by adults and by children will be judged in two separate categories, with prizes of $100, $75 and $50 in each. An award of $25 will go to the float three youthful judges choose as their favorite.

First-, second- and third-place bands also will receive awards of $100, $75 and $50. A merit award of $25 will be given to the band the judges feel shows the most effort.

The school or organization with the largest number of marchers, based on the percentage of enrollment or membership, will receive $25, and the same amount will go to the best group of marchers dressed alike or portraying a theme.

In addition, judges stationed in the parade lineup area will award gift certificates to 70 children in costume. The children will be given ribbons to wear on their costumes and will receive the certificates in the mail.

Marching units and bands should line up on the south side of East Street, facing Park Square, no later than 6:30 p.m. Cars, trucks and other moving vehicles will be fed into the line of march from the parking lot on Willis Street.

Marchers and bands in Section I will line up from the corner of First and East streets to Bartlett Avenue; in Section II, from Bartlett to Pomeroy avenues; Section III, from Pomeroy Avenue to the Pittsfield High School driveway, and Section IV, from the driveway to Appleton Avenue.

If it rains Monday night, changes in plans for the parade will be announced over all local radio stations by 5:30 p.m.

The line of march will be:

Section I

Police car
Recreation Department car
Grand Marshal Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano
Sheriff's car
VFW Color Guard
Fire Department station wagon & Sparky
Winter Carnival Queen
Pittsfield High School Band
Morningside Community School float
Morningside marching unit
WBEC van

Section II

Lenox Memorial High School Band
Sacred Heart School float
Sacred Heart marching unit
Pittsfield High School Cadettes
Williams School marching unit
Crosby Middle School marching unit
Drury High School Band
Girls Club marching unit
Allendale School marching unit

Section III

Wahconah Regional High School Band
Highland School float
Highland School marching unit
Lebanon Valley High School Band
4th of July Parade Committee float
Egremont School marching unit

Section IV

Lee High School Band
West Side Community School float
Pomeroy School marching unit
DeSisto School float
DeSisto School marching unit
Taconic High School Band
Police car.



Photos by Joel Librizzi

'E.T.'s HALLOWEEN,' above, entered by the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade Committee, won second prize in the adult category, while Crosby Middle School's "Putting on the Ritz" entry, below, won first prize for floats made by children and was the favorite of the youth judges at last night's Halloween Parade. Story, another photo, Page 1.

NOV 1 1983



72.



Joel Librizzi

WEST SIDE WITCH was the focal point of West Side Community School's entry, which won top prize for floats built by adults at Pittsfield's 39th annual Halloween Parade last night. Story, more photos appear on Page 7.

NOV 1 1983

Crowd of 10,000 views 39th Halloween parade

By Debra DiMassimo

Temperatures in the high 30s failed to put a chill on Pittsfield's 39th annual Halloween Parade last night, as scary and whimsical creatures, great and small, cavorted along North Street before a crowd estimated at 10,000.

Crosby Middle School snared three top prizes with a theme of "Putting on the Ritz." The float carried members of the school's band, dressed in black capes and top hats, who played the popular song by that name. The float was deemed the best child-constructed float and was the favorite of a panel of youth judges.

A contingent of Crosby marchers, wearing top hats and tails and twirling canes, performed a tricky series of dance steps in accompaniment with the music and won the prize for costumed marching units.

Recreation supervisor Linda A. Altman said Crosby's float was the first the school has entered in the parade and set the stage for the first performance this year by the school band.

Second prize in the child-built float category went to Sacred Heart School, whose "Soul Train" was populated and followed by "heaven bound" young angels with gold tinsel halos and white balloons.

Highland School's old Western town float — complete with a Pink Slipper Saloon, a jailhouse, Farley's General Store and a Highland Hotel — captured third place for child-constructed floats. It was followed by a band of desperados that won the prize given to the school that rounds up the most marchers, based on the percentage of enrollment.

In the category for floats built by adults, the first-prize winner was West Side Community School with a theme of "West Side Wizardry." A scary skeleton peered from a cave as a giant, gruesome witch garbed in green presided over a bubbling cauldron.

Second prize went to the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade Committee for "E.T.'s Halloween" and third went Morningside Community School's "Halloween Comes to Pacland."

Float prizes in each category were $100, $75 and $50, with $25 going to the youth judges' favorite.

Band awards went to Lee, Pittsfield and Drury high schools, respectively, with Wahconah Regional High School getting the $25 merit prize.

Besides the major awards, 70 children won individual costume prizes.

Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano, decked out as a giant green and gold parrot, led the parade, accompanied by deputies dressed as Yogi the Bear, Big Bird, an owl and a creepy creature who defied description.

Attendance for the annual parade, which is sponsored by the Recreation Department and The Berkshire Eagle, was down from last year's crowd of about 15,000. Miss Altman noted that last year's parade was held on a Saturday, prior to the start of daylight-saving time. It was also considerably warmer last year.

Band judges were Donald L. Coleman, James Penoyer and Alexander Quaglietti. Floats were judged by pediatric dentist Louis Yarmosky and two of his dental assistants, Julie Pierce and Joan M. Flynn. Youth judges were Brenda Shook, Kellie DiNicola, Jessica Virgilio and Susan DiNicola.

The winning costumed marching unit was chosen by Mary Ann French, and individual costume awards were presented by Roseann Kudlate, Elizabeth Goodell, Rita Lomaglio, Joan Gattuso, Dolores Warren, Harold and Nancy Butterworth and Nella Crocini.

DEC 2 1983

Tree lighting will be Thursday

Pittsfield's annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony at Park Square will be held Thursday at 7 p.m.

Recreation Director John C. Marchesi said the Pittsfield High School Band will perform and Paul Nixon will lead a community carol sing. There will be no appearance by Santa Claus this year.

DEC 7 1983



Mark Mitchell

TRIMMING Christmas tree in Park Square Saturday is William Dunsmore, a tree climber with the city Maintenance Department's grounds unit. As in the past, city workers trimmed the Christmas tree, and volunteers from the Knights of Columbus erected the creche that traditionally decorates the square. The division of labor is in response to court rulings banning use of public funds for religious displays.



Susan Plageman

SONG LEADER Paul Nixon coaxes youngsters into singing 'Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer' during the annual lighting ceremony for Christmas tree and creche last night at Park Square. Mayor Smith and Park Commission Chairman Roger B. Sloper spoke, and the Pittsfield High band played.

DEC 9 1983

DEC 13 1983

Youngsters again to get calls from Santa Claus

Volunteer Santas and operators will make personal phone calls to Pittsfield children for the second year in a row under the Recreation Department's "North Pole Calling" program on Dec. 16 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Recreation supervisor Linda Altman, coordinator of the Citizens Volunteer Alliance, said information forms describing the program will be sent home with kindergartners and 1st graders and with preschoolers enrolled in the nursery schools operated by the Girls Club and Boys' Club.

Parents will be asked to list the child's name, age, school, gifts requested and what he or she will receive, brothers', sisters' and pets' names and suggestions for possible remarks. Volunteers will use the information to develop conversations with the children and help discourage unrealistic expectations about Christmas gifts.

Forms, which are available at the Recreation Department office at 874 North St. and at the Girls and Boys' clubs, should be returned to those locations by Thursday, Dec. 15.

Ms. Altman said volunteers are needed and should contact her at the Recreation Department. Calls will be made from Berkshire County Savings Bank.

About 700 children were called last year by 32 volunteers.

Christmas tree cleanup set for Sunday

The 21st annual Christmas tree cleanup conducted by the Pittsfield American Legion will be Sunday at Wahconah Park from 8 to 4, according to Richard H. Bentley, chairman.

He said residents must bring their trees to the Wahconah Park parking lot during those hours Sunday. Bentley said the trees will be burned there after 4.

JAN 5 1983

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1983



Pamela M. Bruce

AIRLIFT from Wahconah Park parking lot was made yesterday for a Berkshire Medical Center heart patient, a Pittsfield woman who had to be hurried to University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester. It was the first time since UMass helicopter service began last October that the park was take-off point. Five previous flights were from Pittsfield Airport. The flight to Worcester takes 40 minutes, compared to 2½ hours by ambulance.

Competition will bring eight top drum corps here

Eight top drum corps will be featured this summer in "Precision and Pageantry '83," the second annual drum and bugle corps competition sponsored by the Pittsfield 4th of July Parade Committee.

The fund-raising event is to be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, in Wahconah Park Stadium.

Among the corps scheduled to appear are:

The Santa Clara Vanguards from Santa Clara, Calif., who have won the Drum Corps International Championship on four occasions; Les Chatelaines from Laval, Quebec, the reigning three-time all-girl champions; the Bridgemen from Bayonne, N.J., the Alliance, greater Boston area; the Suncoast Sound, Tampa Bay, Fla.; the Velvet Knights, Santa Ana, Calif.; the Defenders, Rockland, and Les Eclipses, Montreal.

Arrangements for the competition were made in early December when James L. Brassard, the committee's public relations director, and Ray Pulver Jr., contest chairman, attended the Drum Corps International Convention in Miami, Brassard said.

Last year, nearly 5,000 persons filled Wahconah Park to capacity to witness the first such event.

This year, however, seating may be limited to 4,000. With ticket requests already beginning to arrive, Brassard advised persons planning to attend to order their tickets now. They may be obtained by mailing a check or money order for $6 per ticket to Precision and Pageantry '83, P.O. Box 621, Pittsfield 01202.

Tickets will be sold on a first-come first-serve basis and will be mailed about April 1, Brassard said.

If any tickets are available the day of the show, they will be sold for $7.50 each, he added.

HUD to let Class A teams play in Wahconah Park

MAR 22 1983

By Judy Katz

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development has relaxed the ban on professional sports at Wahconah Park far enough to allow Class A minor league baseball in the summer, Community Development Commissioner William J. Angelo announced yesterday.

The announcement was not a signal to break out the peanuts and popcorn. Angelo said it is probably too late to line up a team for this summer, although he said he has contacted some teams "indirectly."

Angelo said that the Pittsburgh Pirates, whose interest in bringing a Class A team to Pittsfield sparked the now successful negotiations between the city and HUD, ran out of time and picked Watertown, N.Y., instead as site for its farm team in the N.Y.-Penn. League.

HUD has only sanctioned berthing Class A ball, the lowest level of professional baseball, at Wahconah. Angelo said it could be a first step toward eventual unfettered use of the park.

The federal government is re-examining its position on projects undertaken with federal grants, he said: "These restrictions can't go on forever."

Major renovations at Wahconah Park in the late 1970s were financed with a $700,000 federal grant under the Community Development Act — an act which specifically barred using the funds for stadiums and sports arenas. HUD discovered, as renovations neared completion, that Wahconah Park is not exactly the sort of park it had in mind.

A compromise was reached with city officials: Wahconah Park would be run as a park, not a stadium, and Pittsfield would not have to pay back the $700,000.

That ruled out professional ball. Even admission fees for school games there could only be high enough to cover the cost of using the stadium.

Mayor Charles L. Smith made lifting the restrictions one of his goals early in his first term, but HUD has stood firm until now. The latest round of negotiations began about a month ago, Angelo said, after the inquiry from the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Angelo announced HUD's partial change of heart at a press conference in the mayor's office. Smith had intended to break the news himself, but was delayed in Lenox where he was participating in a local television program on the Krofta drinking water treatment plant there.

HUD placed conditions on its approval of Class A ball, Angelo said. The city's Office of Community and Economic Development would be charged with monitoring the professional use to make sure that it does not shut community recreation activities out of the park nor exclude low- and moderate-income people.

That, he said, is why professional use is limited to Class A ball. A Class A team, he said, leaves "the most flexibility for other uses at the park" because it has shorter schedules and requires less time in the park.

Also, ticket prices for Class A baseball are low enough — he gave 99 cents to $3 as the range — to bring it within reach of people with low and moderate incomes.

In a letter to Mayor Smith, Robert L. Paquin, director of HUD's community planning and development division, said the city's proposal to allow Class A ball is "significantly different" from its earlier proposals because "it would not restrict use for multi-purpose recreational activities" and would continue to provide access for people of limited means.

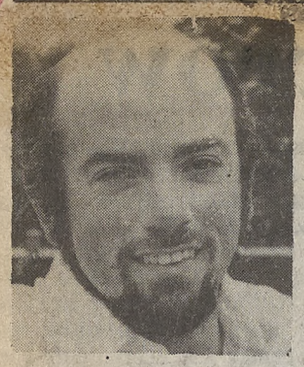
Also, Paquin said, HUD understands the city's need under Proposition 2½ to generate more money to maintain Wahconah Park.

Even a Class A level Pittsfield professional team would bring in tourist dollars, Angelo said. He conceded that professional baseball teams played to empty stands in the past. (The Class AA Berkshire Brewers in 1976 drew as few as 62 spectators to Wahconah Park.) But, he said, now that the park is renovated and has a first-class lighting system for night games, courtesy of the federal government, "it's a whole different ball game."

MAR 23 1983

Not quite a panacea

One hates to be a killjoy in an election year, but it's a bit hard to take seriously City Hall's visions of tourist dollars galore flowing into town as a result of HUD's reluctant decision to let reconstructed Wahconah Park be used for Class A baseball. In pro ball, unlike the academic world, Class A is the bottom, which presumably means that it would draw even sparser crowds than turned out here for considerably classier stuff in years past. In terms of pumping money into the economy, it's probably somewhere between a miniature golf course and another McDonald's.



As I See It

Class A? No, thank you

By Bob McDonough

MAR 23 1983

Stop the presses and break out the peanuts and popcorn and Crackerjack — Class A baseball may be on its way to Wahconah Park.

Yippee.

Pardon my lack of jubilation, but this could be one of the least exciting news flashes of the year.

Every spring, like pop flies and tulip buds, news headlines turn up quoting the current mayor of Pittsfield as saying, "Mayor seeks to free up use of park." Followed a day or two later by a reply of "Drop dead" from the regional office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which annually turned thumbs down on any plan to introduce commercial enterprises into a park rehabilitated (almost fraudulently) with $700,000 in federal community development funds.

Funny thing. HUD's negative reply never set off any torchlight parades demanding minor league baseball. No public tears were shed. The suicide rate didn't leap. Except for a few die-hard fans — relics from the days of the Class AA Pittsfield Red Sox, Senators, Rangers and Brewers — nobody cared.

We in Pittsfield have learned a hard lesson. Pro sports will not make it in this town. Even with a team connected with our beloved Red Sox, the crowds disappeared after one curiosity-seeking season. Even in this basketball-crazy locale, the Shamrocks (remember them?) disappeared before completing even one season.

* * * *

Apathy, you say? Wrong. Try another word. Saturation.

If you love baseball, you've got it in Pittsfield. Every day in the summer, there are Red Sox, Yankees and Mets on TV and radio. For those who prefer their baseball live, there is a choice of high school, American Legion, the Dalton Collegians, Little League, Babe Ruth League and softball leagues coming out our ears. What chance does Class A baseball, with its list of itinerant players, have against Uncle Joe's softball team or nephew Stevie's Little League game?

Even Mayor Smith, a big supporter of baseball, agrees that "the city is so sports minded, we spend a great deal of our time going to games of our children and grandchildren. You can't devote the time to go see a professional team play."

Since HUD shut the door on pro baseball at Wahconah Park, former Mayor Evan S. Dobelle has taken the rap for sneaking in the park project even though federal law specifically prohibited using the money for a sports stadium. But maybe his shifty maneuvering has had a silver lining. Since the project was completed in 1978, the park has been a haven for local youth teams, from high school to Babe Ruth League and American Legion. Since then, the park has hosted two Babe Ruth state tournaments and will host the American Legion regional tournament this summer.

If a pro team is allowed in, even with a limited Class A schedule, who do you think will take a back seat? Certainly not the pro team, with its traditionally sweet lease agreements.

Ray Pierson of Lenox, a former member of the local Babe Ruth board of directors and a leader of the opposition when pro baseball was proposed here in 1979, said his stance "hasn't changed one bit."

"Every time we want to use the park, it always costs us top dollar and we always pay for it," Pierson continued. "Too many [pro] teams come in here over the years, and they've raped us. They took the money and got the heck out of here. Don't get me wrong. I'd love to see a pro team, but I don't want the kids to take a back seat."

* * * *

City officials have said a pro team would be a boon to the local economy. But think about it. With a band of about 30 low-paid young athletes spending little over two months here, it would be about as big a boon as a state road rebuilding project. If history is any teacher, former Pittsfield pro players lived as often in the outlying towns of Lee and Cheshire as in Pittsfield. As for the incoming tourist dollar, it just isn't there. Class A baseball isn't exactly Tanglewood. History has shown us that the only way to draw crowds to minor league baseball is with the San Diego Chicken or by giving away a pony.

William J. Angelo, the city's Community Development Commissioner, said attendance at both the minor league and kids' games could be boosted by scheduling games back to back. What planet is he on? Schedule a kids' game at 4 p.m., go extra innings, wait out a rain delay or pause while the sun sets behind center field, and see what the rent-paying pro team has to say about it. And with four straight days of rain, who do you think will get first dibs on the park for make-up dates? The kids? Don't bet on it.

If a minor league team comes here, there must be strict rules allowing the field to be available for local youth programs. That's how we got the $700,000 to fix the place.

Pro teams have this funny possessiveness over their leased property. More than once during key high school or American Legion playoff games, the pros have decided they had the right to trot around the outfield for their pre-game warmups, the rest of the world be damned. Ask Pittsfield umpire Jerry Schmidt, who needed assistance from the Holyoke police to clear the field of prima donna pros while Drury High tried to win its Western Mass. tournament game at Mackenzie Field in Holyoke a few years back.

* * * *

There are positive aspects to having a local pro team. For one thing, local prospects would probably get a better look by pro scouts, who are always anxious to fill the stands by signing local athletes. And as local Babe Ruth League president Jim Hassett points out, "having players out there only three or four years older can be a fine inspiration to our youngsters."

Although Wahconah Park isn't completely booked by youth programs, there are other useful ways to utilize the part without a Class A team. Mayor Smith said he would support such events as concerts to raise funds for athletic and other school programs hard hit by Proposition 2½.

"I'm not the one pushing for a minor league team," the mayor insists. "Half want to see it and the other half don't. I figure if we can get the restrictions lifted, we can hold public hearings to see what people want."

It would be nice to get the HUD monkey off our back, and use Wahconah Park for whatever we want. Maybe I'm wrong, and the ticket-buying baseball fans are just saving up for their minor league box seats. But in the past, the city has footed much of the bill for lighting and maintenance while pro teams kept our youth teams out of the park. City officials have promised us a public hearing before inviting any pro franchise into Wahconah Park. When they give us our voice, let's make sure we use it.



APR 8 1983



Mark Mitchell

INSPECTION TOUR of Wahconah Park was taken yesterday by George Roulan, center, the American Legion's national baseball program coordinator, as a prelude to the Northeast Regional American Legion tournament scheduled here Aug. 24-28. Guiding Roulan were Dick Bentley, left, manager of the host Charles A. Persip Post 68, and Ted Handerek, right, the tournament chairman.

APR 16 1983



Spring Practice

Floods in the parking lot, not to mention on the playing field were an annual spring ritual at Wahconah Park in the old days. Here, in 1960, a member of the city Department of Public Works gets in some excellent wading.

APR 13 1983

Three non-league tilts open school baseball season this afternoon

Three independent games today open the 1983 Berkshire County high school baseball season.

In today's action, Pittsfield High will meet Chatham, N.Y., at Clapp Park, Taconic will face Lenox at Wahconah Park, and Drury will be at Lee.

All three games are slated to start at 4.

The PHS-Chatham game will mark the debut of new Generals coach Bob Moynihan, who replaces 19-year veteran Buddy Pellerin at the PHS helm. Pittsfield and Chatham were originally scheduled to play their season opener Friday at Chatham, but that game was postponed because of rain.

There will also be one game tomorrow, with McCann Tech meeting Mohawk Trail Regional at 4 at North Adams.



Susan Plageman

In-town lake

APR 23 1983

Despite strenuous efforts, Wahconah Park is still vulnerable to flooding from the Housatonic River. This view from the south shows the Minor League backstop and the parking lot, both inundated. Beyond the grandstand the main playing field is soggy but not flooded. A St. Joseph's-Taconic High baseball game scheduled for today has been shifted to THS.

APR 27 1983

Hearing Monday on pro baseball at Wahconah Park

The Park Commission will hold a public hearing next Monday on a proposal to permit Class A minor-league professional baseball in Wahconah Park.

The commission set the date at its meeting Monday night. The hearing will be at 7 p.m. Because the issue may draw a larger crowd than can fit in the small meeting room in the Park Department's Springside House headquarters, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert said he will try to book it into the City Council chamber in City Hall.

The hearing will be on the possibility of having a pro team in the park in 1984 at the earliest. No plans are in the offing for a team this year.

Ward 1 Councilor John R. O'Gara, who attended part of Monday night's meeting, said some supporters of youth athletic programs at Wahconah Park are worried that a professional team will tie up the field and squeeze them out.

Mayor Charles L. Smith and Community Development Commissioner William J. Angelo have stressed that one reason the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development agreed to make Class A ball an exception to its ban on professional sports at Wahconah is that the change would not preclude community recreation activities there.

Class A is the bottom rung of the pro minor-league ladder. Angelo has said that since its schedule of games is lighter than higher-level teams, the park would still be available at times for other uses.

The ban on professional sports at Wahconah Park originated because the city used Community Development Act money to renovate the field and install lights for night games. The act specifically barred using the money for stadiums and sports arenas.

When the federal agency discovered the violation of regulations — after the $700,000 renovation was virtually complete — it ruled that Wahconah Park should be operated as a community recreation area to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income people.

Smith has been working to get the ban lifted since shortly after he won election to his first term. He and Angelo see Class A ball as a possible first step toward opening the park to other professional teams.

The big yawn MAY 4 1983

Whatever the merits of the arguments for and against bringing professional baseball back to Wahconah Park, supporters of the idea obviously can't claim it would respond to any popular demand. The fact that the Park Commission's hearing on the subject Monday night drew a crowd of 12 people, only one of whom had a good word to say for the idea, is a pretty good clue as to what sort of business the proposed Pittsburgh Pirates farm club could expect to do at the box office.

WAIT PLACE MAY 5 1983

Tickets are now available for drum corps contest

Beverly Chartier, president of the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade Committee, Tuesday announced that tickets for the Precision and Pageantry '83 Drum and Bugle Corps Competition are now available at several locations in the Pittsfield area.

Advance-sale concert-side seats may be purchased at Randall's Trophy Shop on Tyler Street, Either/Or Bookstore on North Street and from any member of the Fourth of July Parade Committee. The tickets are priced at $6. If any are available the day of the show, the price then will be $7.50.

According to James Brassard, public relations director of the Parade Committee, about five times as many mail orders for tickets have come in this year as last year when 5,000 persons jammed Wahconah Park for the event. This year, because of a possibly different seating arrangement, only 4,000 concert-side seats will be sold.

Precision and Pageantry '83 is an internationally sanctioned drum corps competition to be held at Wahconah Park stadium on Friday, Aug. 5, at 7:30 p.m. It will feature the Santa Clara (Calif.) Vanguard, the Bridgemen of Bayonne, N.J., the Alliance of Greater Boston, the Velvet Knights of Orange County, Calif., Les Eclipses of Longueuil, Quebec, and Les Chatelaines of Laval, Quebec.

The contest is being staged by the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade Committee as a major fund-raiser to offset the expenses of the parade. Ray Pulver is chairman of this year's event, which will be held rain or shine.

MAY 3 1983

Wahconah Park gets scant support

...the economic benefits would be "minimal or non-existent."

McCaffrey said last summer's drum corps competition, economically, "had more impact than 10 years of pro ball." He said the proposal has "disadvantages that certainly outnumber the advantages," and that he would recommend that his City Council colleagues vote down the proposal if it reaches them.

One in favor

The only speaker in favor of the proposal was James J. Hassett, who is president of the Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League, but said he was speaking only as a citizen. He said the city has had difficulty attracting regional baseball tournaments because of the prohibitive cost of lights at Wahconah Park, roughly $4,400 per month. He said a pro team would be "subsidizing the lights for people who want to use [the park.]"

Hassett said the pro teams have traditionally helped provide baseballs for the city's youth leagues and that having a pro team in Pittsfield would enable the young players to "see what the fruits of their labor might bring."

The Parks Commission did not vote on the proposal, but commission member Clifford J. Nilan said the small turnout and evident lack of enthusiasm for the pro team wouldn't help its passage.

Pro ball in W...

By Bob McDonough

A proposal to bring professional baseball to Wahconah Park in 1984 batted only .250 at a Parks Commission hearing last night, with three of four speakers voicing opposition to the idea.

The public hearing was called after the city's commissioner of community development, William J. Angelo, said the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development had lifted restrictions for use of the park by professional teams, and that the Pittsburgh Pirates organization was interested in anchoring a Class A team at Wahconah Park.

The Parks Commission, anticipating a large turnout in response to the issue, scheduled the hearing in the larger City Council chambers instead of Springside House. Only 12 people turned out, however, and only four of them addressed the issue.

Raymond H. Pierson of Lenox, a former Pittsfield baseball official, was most vocal in his opposition, claiming that the city had sunk more than $100,000 in taxpayers' money into supporting former pro teams in the stadium. He challenged Angelo to explain who would pay for such expenses as lighting, police, maintenance, liability insurance and damage if a pro team came to town.

Pierson and other speakers said they feared the pro team would force local baseball programs out of the park, discounting Angelo's claim that the Class A team would use the park only 37 days during a 76-day period during the summer.

Wahconah Park, Pierson said, is the only decent baseball facility in the city, "and now a professional team wants to come in here and take it away from our kids."

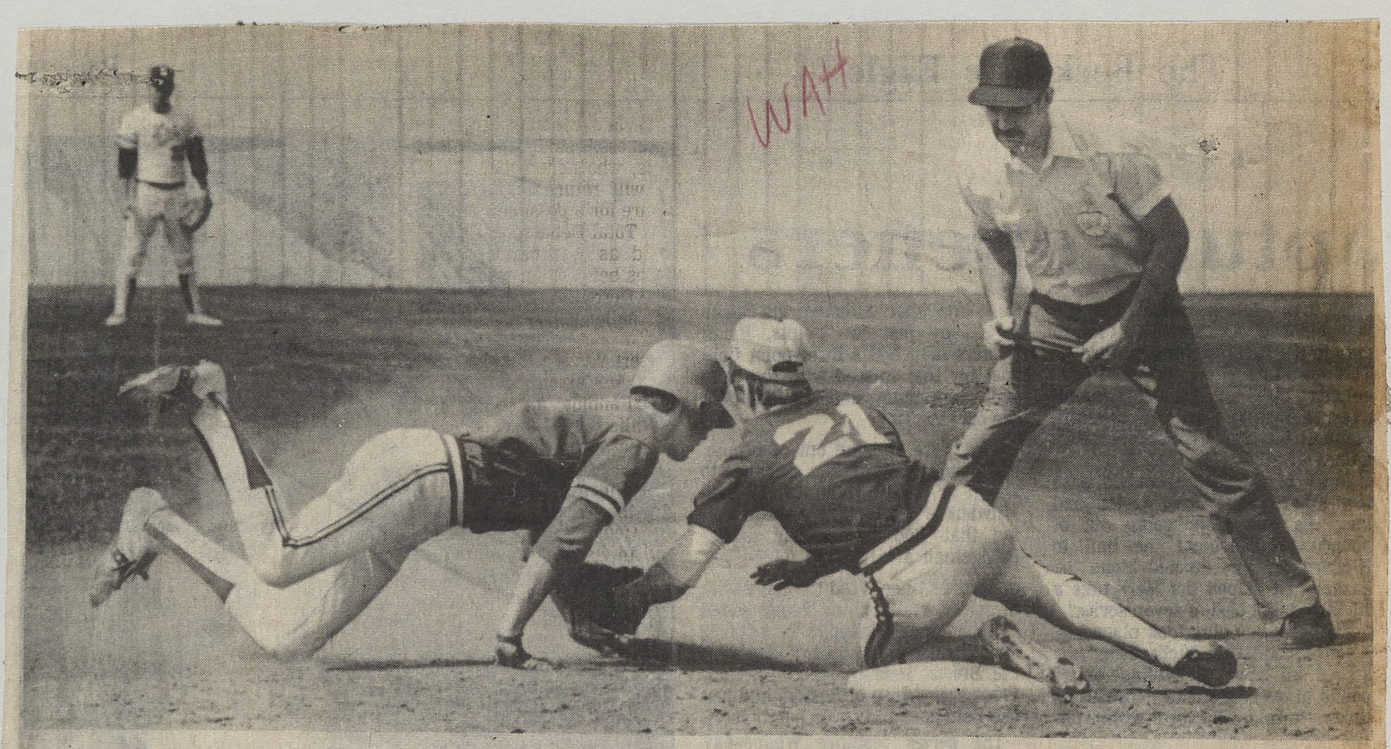
Fresh from school

Since Class A is the lowest in the minor league chain, many of the players are fresh out of high school. Louis Pia Jr., a physical education instructor at Reid Middle School and former pro pitching prospect, called the Class A program that would come to the city "a glorified Senior Babe Ruth [League] team."

Pia argued that the city must guard against problems that might arise with youth league teams competing with the pro team for use of the field. He voiced fear that the pro team would insist on first priority, forcing youth teams off the field if they encountered delays from rain or extra innings.

"This commission, in light of Proposition 2½, has an obligation to the teams in the city of Pittsfield," Pia said.

Although Angelo said the pro team could help the city's economy by employing between 12 and 20 part-time employees, City Councilor James R. McCaffrey argued that



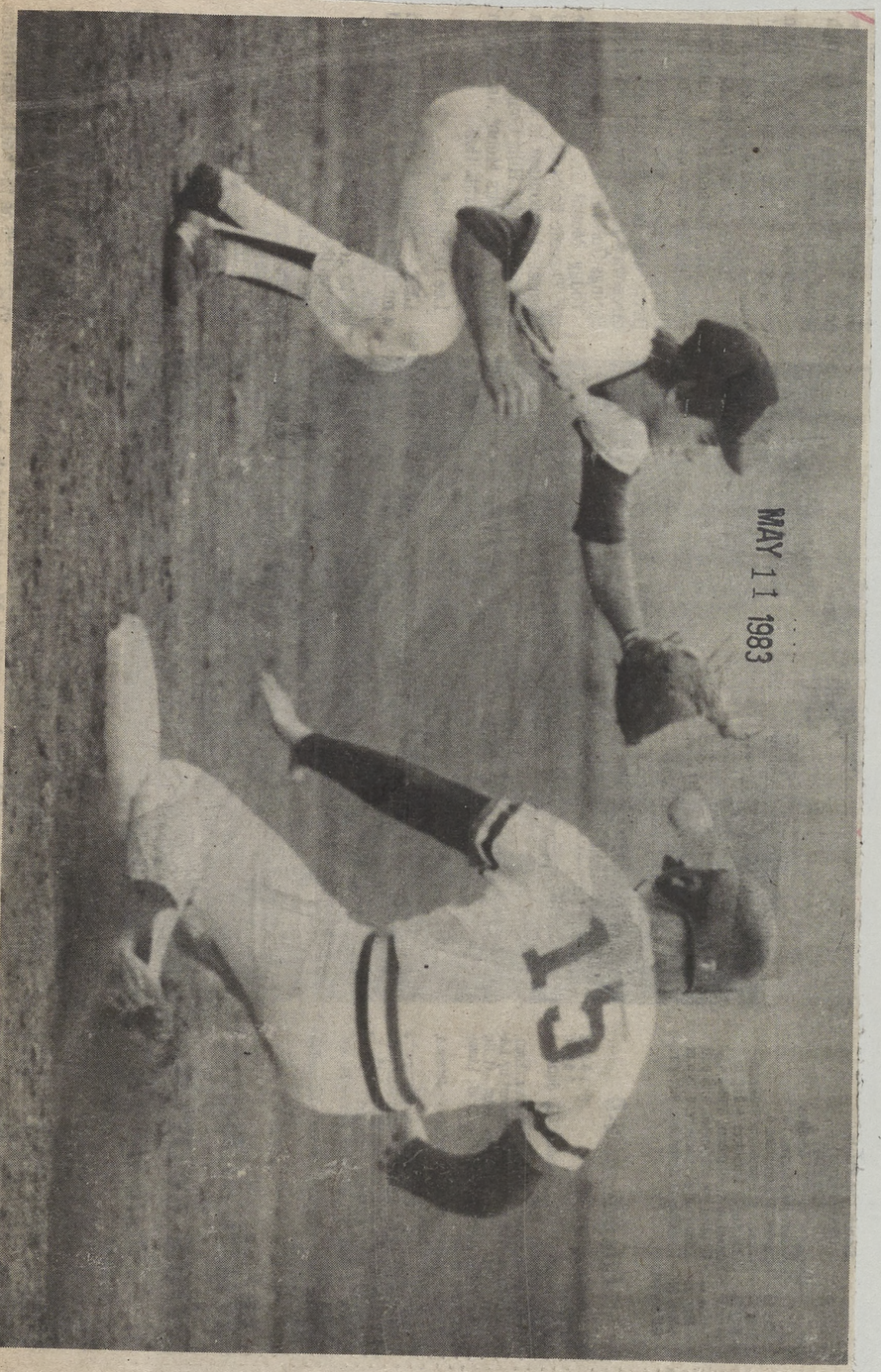
Mark Mitchell

Gotcha!

MAY 9 1983

Sliding past the bag on a fifth-inning stolen base attempt, Hoosac Valley's Bob Carlow, left, tries to scramble back to second but is still tagged out by McCann Tech's Nate Reynolds (21) during Saturday's Pete Cimini Memorial Scholarship Fund high school baseball all-star game at Wahconah Park. Umpire Jerry Schmidt watches the action.





MAY 11 1983

CRUISING into second base ahead of the throw, Pittsfield High's Dave Bertolozzi is safe after ripping a run-scoring double in the second inning of yesterday's 5-1 win over Taconic. Taconic shortstop Tom Rizzo hauls in the throw.

Susan Plageman



Bob McDonough

ALL TANGLED UP at home plate are Taconic catcher D.J. Bertoldi and Wahconah runner Wendy Kanable, who scored on sixth inning sacrifice fly during yesterday's softball game at Lakewood Field. Umpire Dave Messer keeps his eye on the ball, which is at upper right of photo.

MAY 12 1983

Lonesome at Wahconah Park

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Having read with considerable surprise that professional baseball may be played at Wahconah Park again, I wonder if any of those expressing such interest in it attended the games played there by the last league to operate in Pittsfield, about eight years ago (the year of its final demise is not important).

I have attended Major League baseball games all over the country, from Boston to San Francisco, but I enjoyed many of the games at Wahconah Park as much as any. In the 1920s, I attended games there when the old Eastern League existed (the Depression brought an end to that). In 1924, when Lou Gehrig was playing with Hartford, the year before he joined the Yankees, Lou hit a homer over the flagpole at Wahconah Park. I had brought Lou's father to the game that day (Mr. Gehrig stayed with my family in the country that summer for reasons of health), and we were both greatly pleased when Lou got that home run.

In the 1950s, after an absence of some 20 years, pro baseball returned to Wahconah Park. It was a good league with some Canadian teams in it, Quebec and Three Rivers, and attendance was gratifying. I covered some of those games for station WBRK with the late John M. Flynn as my sportswriting companion. John was the *Eagle* sportswriter for many years and was a grand person to know and a real gentleman.

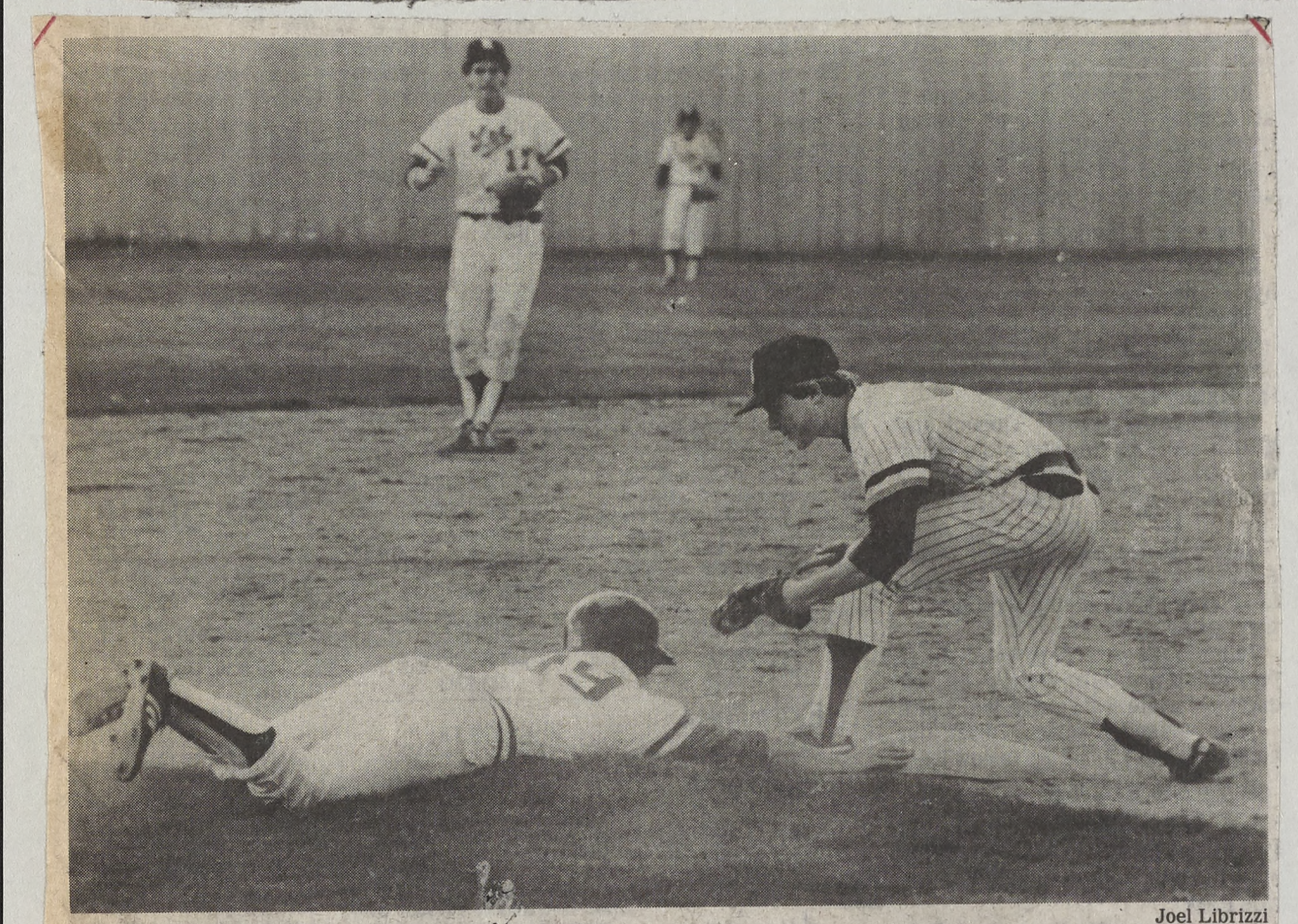
After the Canadian teams dropped out for some reason, Pittsfield never again drew good crowds. Eventually, a new team played here as a Red Sox farm team. Although it was a good team, with such players as Reggie Smith and George Scott (later Major League stars), attendance was poor.

After the Red Sox withdrew their support, other league teams played here, and even though they played good ball, fans became fewer and fewer. I attended many games that final summer, but Wahconah Park was a lonesome place, often with only a hundred fans present (a Little League game nearby drew twice as many). It's too bad the games were played at night that final season, wasting all that electricity; they could have drawn that handful of fans at noon.

Pittsfield fans did not support the team then, and did not deserve to have a professional team. In my opinion, things have not changed for the better.

HOWARD F. JOHNSON
Canaan, N.Y.

MAY 12 1983



Joel Librizzi

TAGGED OUT by Lee High third baseman Tom Briggs, right, Pittsfield's Ken Ferris belatedly grabs for the bag after over-sliding third on a stolen base attempt during yesterday's game at Wahconah Park. PHS beat Lee 1-0 in nine innings.

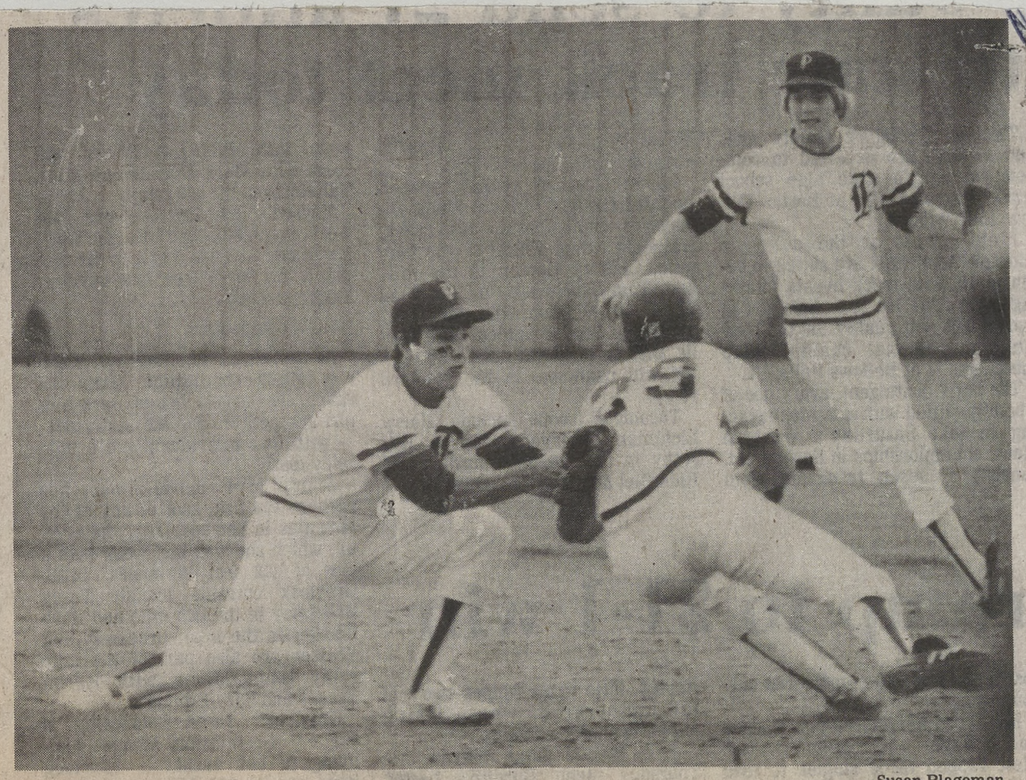
JUN 2 1983



JUN 4 1983 Susan Plageman

Jumping for joy

Taconic High relief pitcher John Rogers (10) does a midair victory dance with starting pitcher Pat Anello after the Braves defeated Pittsfield High 6-4 yesterday at Wahconah Park to win Northern Division baseball championship. Others are catcher Steve Wieber (13), assistant coach Ron Bartlett, far left, and head coach Don Murphy, in jacket. Story, other picture, Page 25.



Susan Plageman

OUT BY A MILE — well, at least by about 15 feet — is Taconic's Tom Gauthier (29), who is tagged by Pittsfield second baseman Ken Ferris on an attempted stolen base during yesterday's Northern Division playoff game at Wahconah Park. Pittsfield shortstop Dave Bertolozzi backs up the play at right. Taconic beat PHS 6-4 to win the North title.

JUN 4 1983



JUN 3 1983

GUNNED DOWN at the plate on a squeeze bunt attempt, Taconic's Dave Bowler is tagged out by Pittsfield catcher Craig Turnbull as umpire Jerry Schmidt makes the call. Taconic, however, still went on to win the game 9-2.

Mark Mitchell

18.

JUN 9 1983

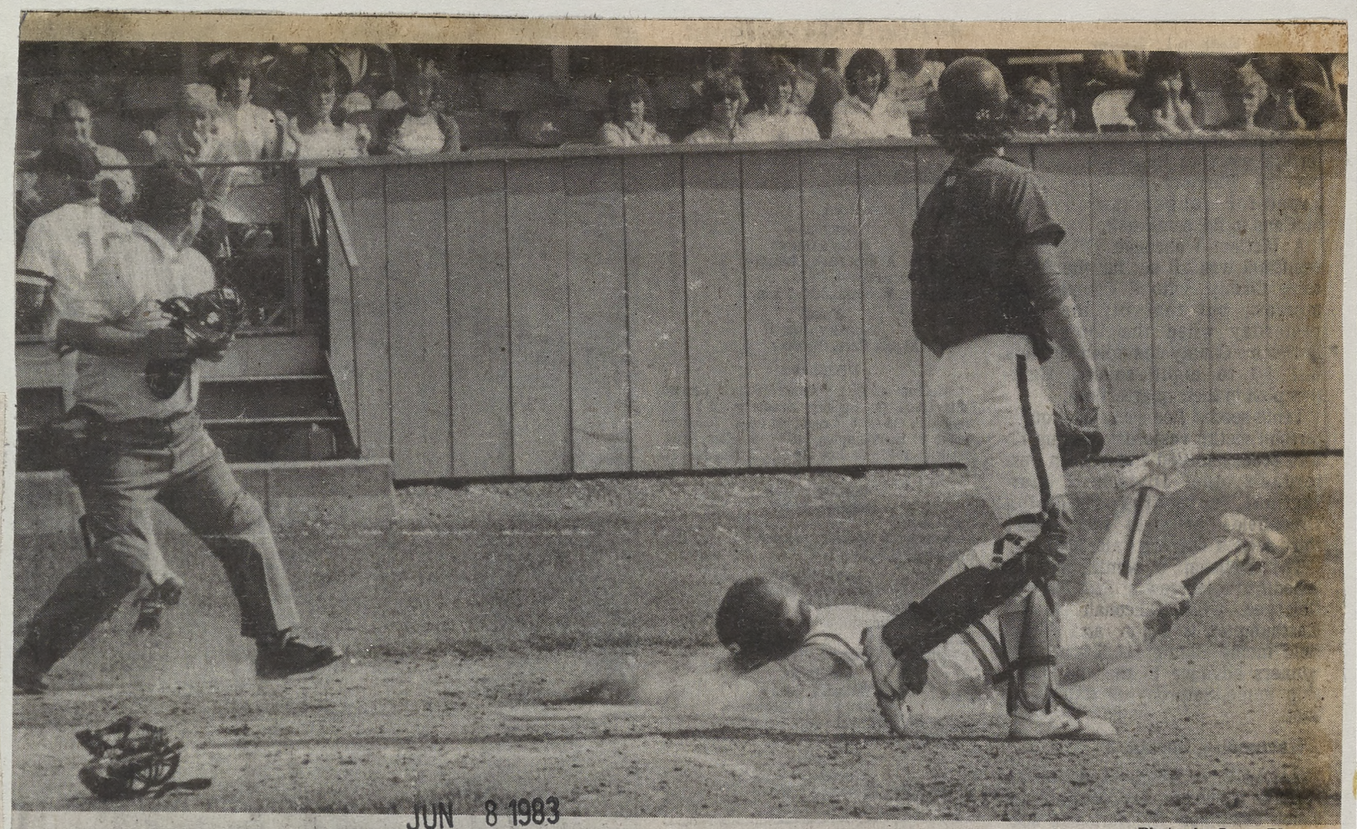
BASEBALL: The Major League Scouting Bureau, an organization that represents 16 of the 26 big league teams, has scheduled its second annual tryout and instructional clinic at Wahconah Park.

The tryout will be held Thursday, June 23, beginning with registration at 9 a.m. The tryout is open to all players between the ages of 16 and 25, and all players must appear in full uniform. American Legion players must bring a letter of approval from either their legion coach or post commander.

The tryout camp here is one of four slated throughout New England, and one of several throughout the nation. The purpose of the camps is to improve skills through instruction and to showcase the youngsters for the attending scouts.

The tryout will be under the direction of former Chicago Cub infielder Lenny Merullo, who is now the director of the Major League Scouting Bureau.

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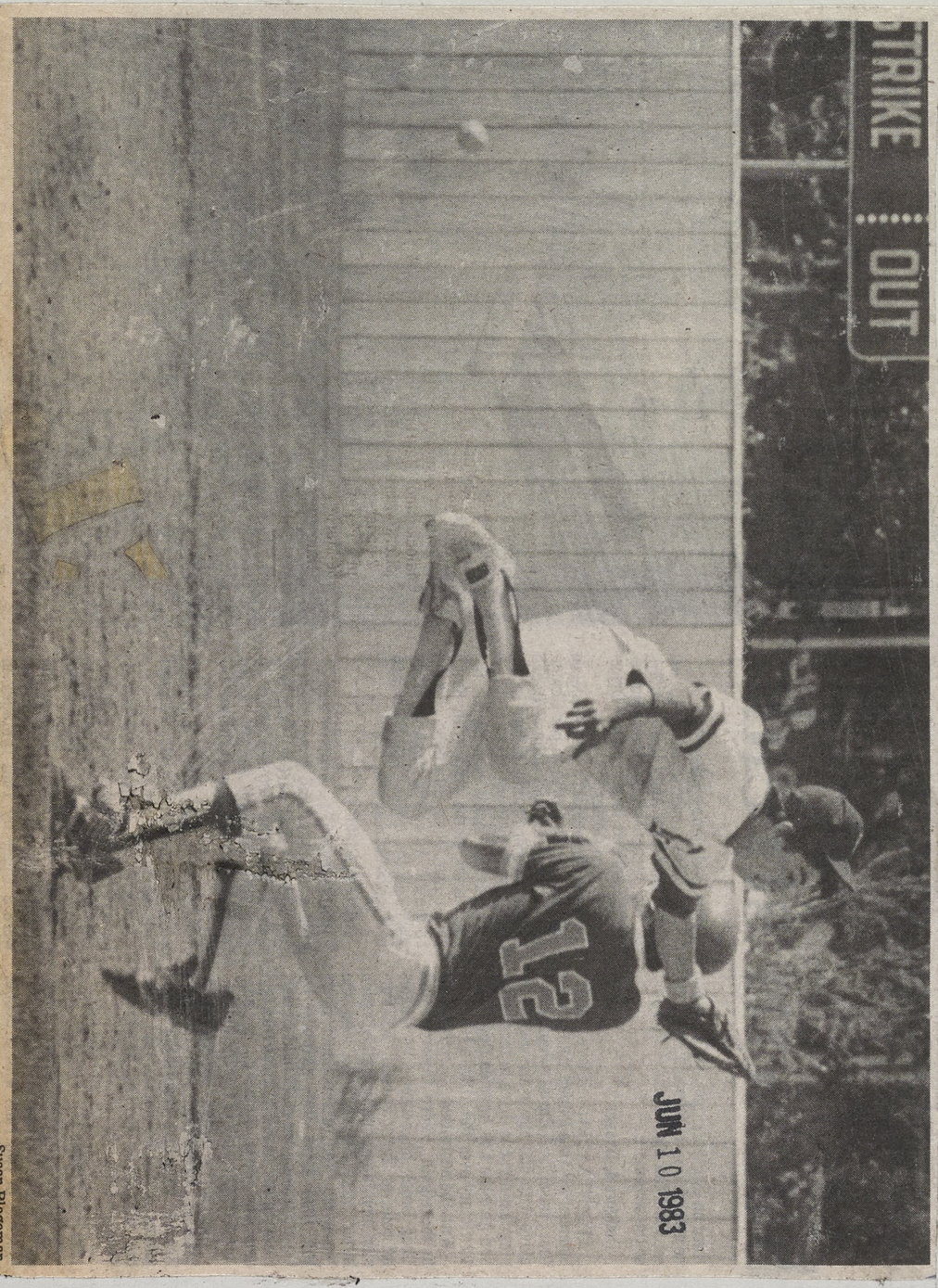


JUN 8 1983

Photos by Susan Plagemar

HOMETOWN FAVORITES Pittsfield High and Taconic gave their fans plenty to shout about at Wahconah Park yesterday in Western Mass. tournament action. At top, Pittsfield's Paul Gaylord gets a face full of dust but is safe at home with his team's final run in the Generals' 8-3 win over Westfield, while below, Taconic's Mike Donati slides into third with a triple in his team's 10-6 triumph over Longmeadow. Both games were Division 1 quarterfinal contests.

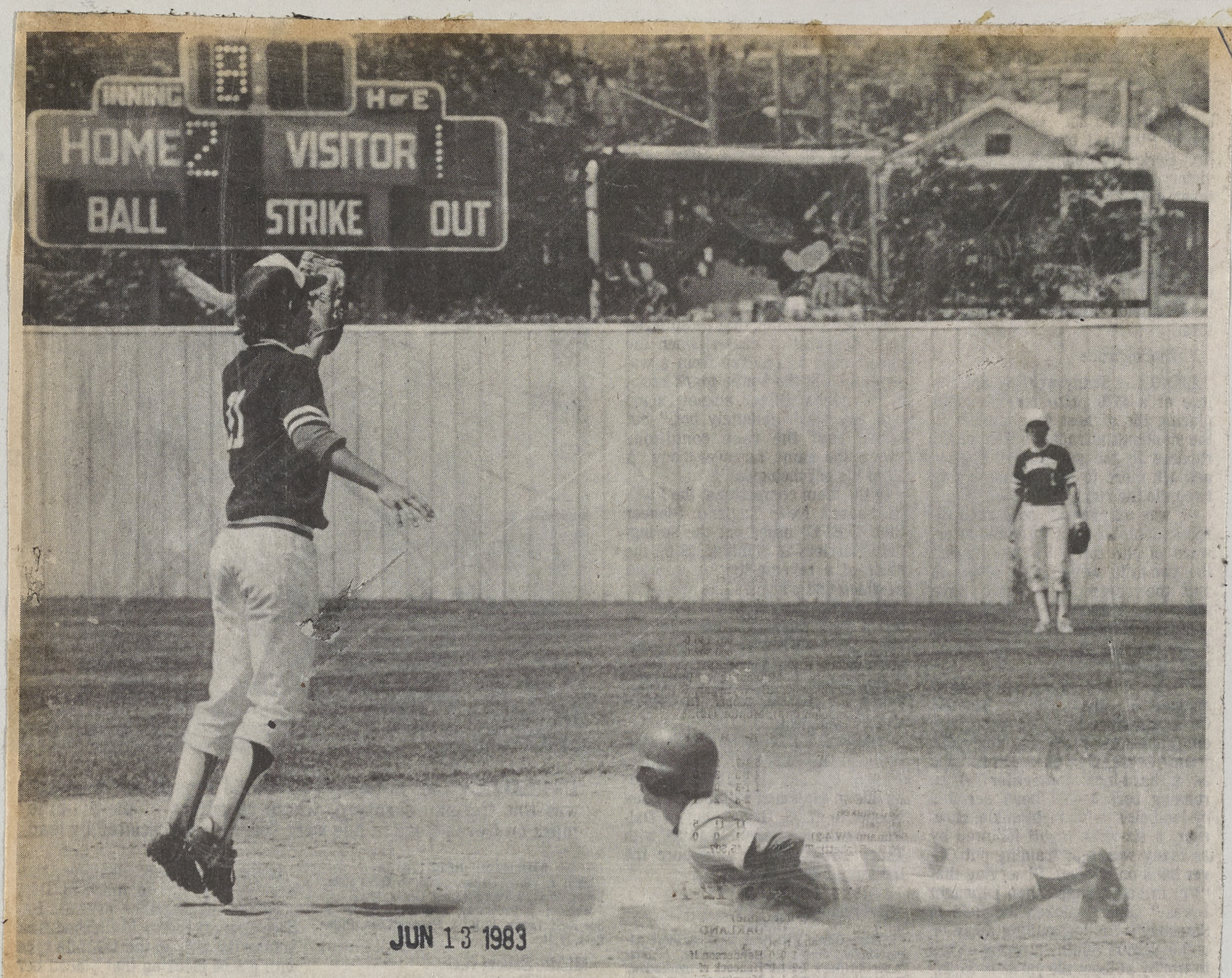




JUN 10 1983

Susan Plageman

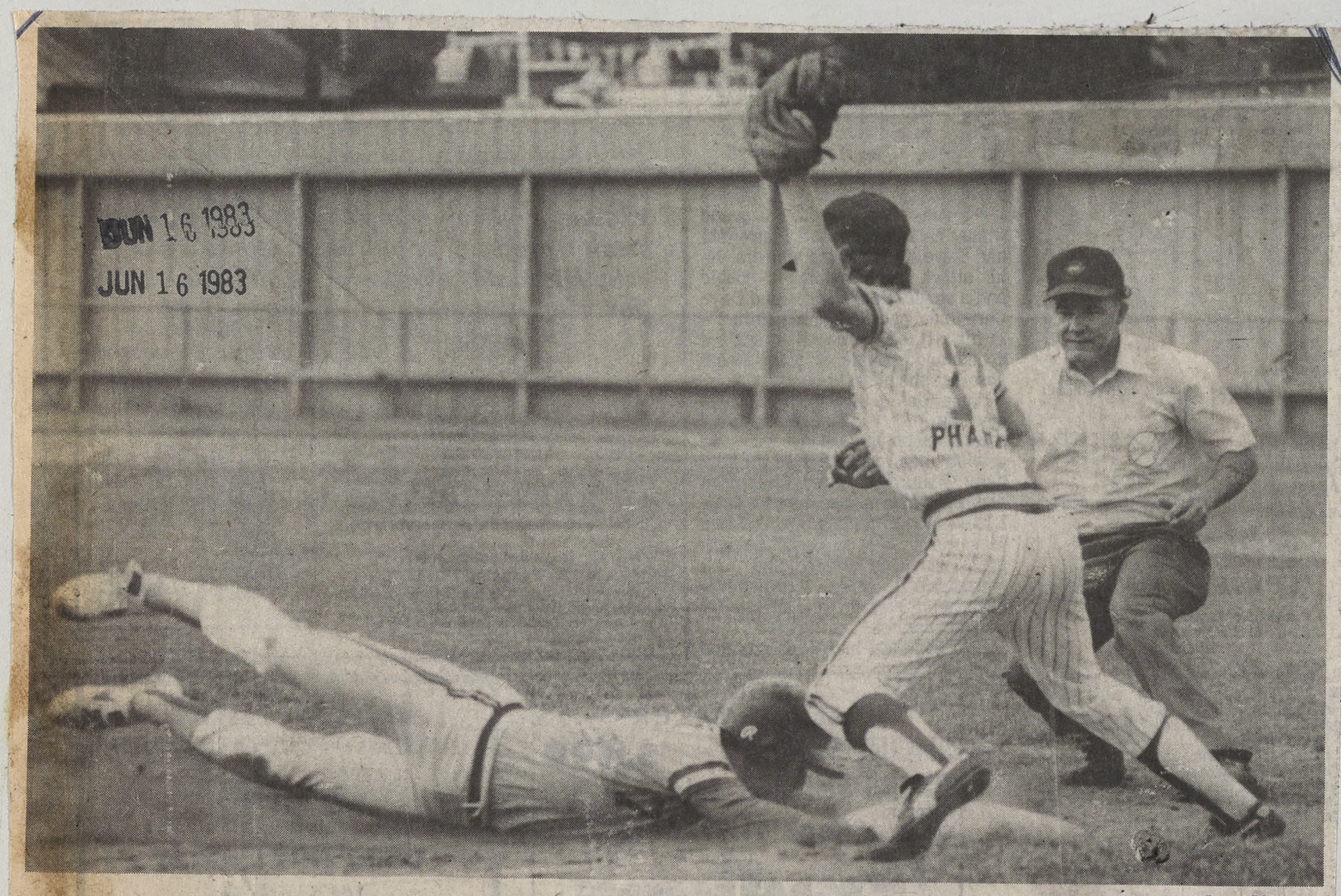
HIGH-FLYING second baseman Ken Ferris of Pittsfield High couldn't get to this throw and Minnechaug runner Roy Troie was safe with a stolen base during yesterday's Western Mass. tournament game at Wahconah Park.



JUN 13 1983

Mark Mitchell

DIVING for second base after an attempted pickoff throw went astray in the eighth inning Saturday at Wahconah Park is Drury's Chris Falcon. Ludlow shortstop Greg Kolodziey awaits a throw from right field, but Falcon has already beaten it out. Ludlow won the Western Mass. Division 2 championship game 2-1.



JUN 16 1983

JUN 16 1983

Susan Plageman

HELPING HIMSELF with an RBI triple, Friendship Tyler Aces pitcher Mike Rizzo slides safely into third during last night's American Legion game at Wahconah Park. Lee-Lenox Dale's Tom Briggs takes the throw, while umpire Ray Pierson watches the action. The Aces won the game, beating Lee-Lenox Dale 12-3. The win was Tyler's second straight.

JUN 15 1983

Three games listed for tonight in American Legion play

Three games tonight mark the second night of play in the Berkshire County American Legion baseball league.

In tonight's action, Dalton will meet South Berkshire at the Berkshire School field in Sheffield, Persip Post 68 will face North Adams Stiles Post 125 at Noel Field in North Adams, and the defending county champion Friendship Tyler Aces will play their home opener against Lee-Lenox Dale. That game will be played at Wahconah Park.

Starting time for all three contests is set for 6 p.m.

The Aces, Pittsfield and North Adams all go into tonight's games with record of 1-0, while South Berkshire, Dalton and Lee-Lenox Dale are 0-1.

Legion tilts called off; Collegians' game suspended in 3-3 tie

Two American Legion baseball games were postponed and the Dalton Collegians' contest was suspended in the fourth inning last night because of the evening thunderstorms.

In Berkshire County League Legion play, the game between Dalton and North Adams at Noel Field in North Adams was called off and has been rescheduled for Tuesday night. At Sheffield, Lee-Lenox Dale and South Berkshire were tied 0-0 when rained washed out their game in the third inning. That contest will have to be replayed from the start, but has not yet been rescheduled.

There is one Legion game on the schedule for tonight, with Pittsfield Persip Post 68 meeting the Friendship Tyler Aces at 6 at Wahconah Park.

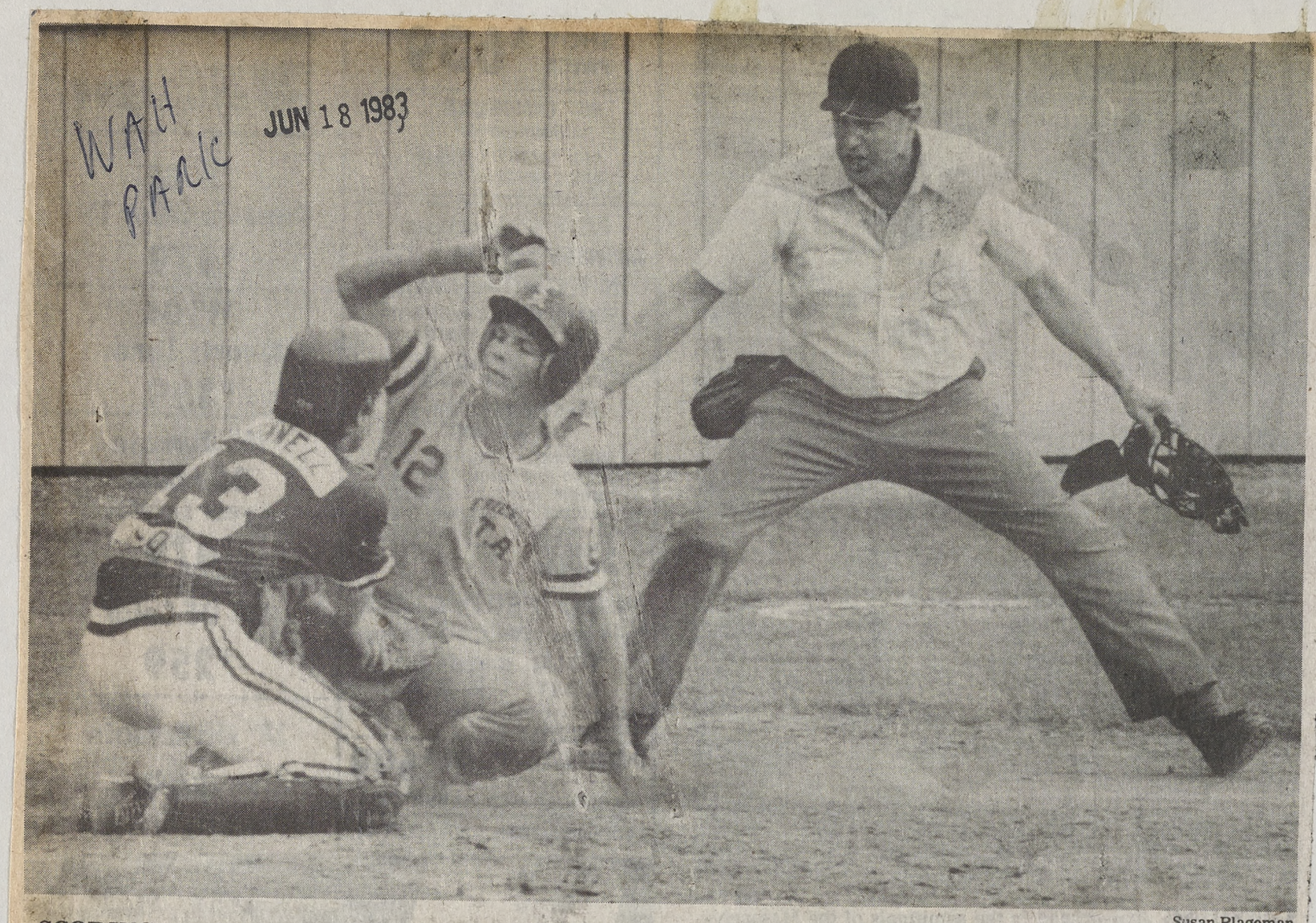
The Collegians and the Fenton Pioneers of Amherst were tied 3-3 when their senior amateur tilt was called off in the last of the fourth at Pine Grove Park in Dalton. That game will be resumed from the point of suspension when Fenton's returns to Dalton for a regularly-scheduled game on Tuesday.

In that game, North Adams State player Mike Laviolette hit a solo home run and AIC's Ed Oliveine belted a two-run shot in the top of the first for Fenton's, but the Collegians' Rocky Daley cracked a three-run homer — his third home run in the last three games — to tie it in the last of the first.

JUN 17 1983

WAH PARK

JUN 18 1983



Susan Plageman

SCORING on a fielder's choice in the third inning, Matt Sheran of the Friendship Tyler Aces slides in safely, beating the tag of Post 68 catcher Jim Collins (13). Umpire Ed Ladley makes the call. Sheran had three hits and pitched a four-hitter as the Aces beat Post 68 7-1. The win was the Friendship team's third straight.

Aces-Post 68 clash highlights three-game Legion slate tonight

A full slate of three games is on tap for tonight in Berkshire County League American Legion baseball play.

At Wahconah Park, city rivals Persip Post 68 and the Friendship Tyler Aces will meet for the second time in four nights. The Aces lead the league with a record of 3-0, while Post 68 has a 1-2 mark.

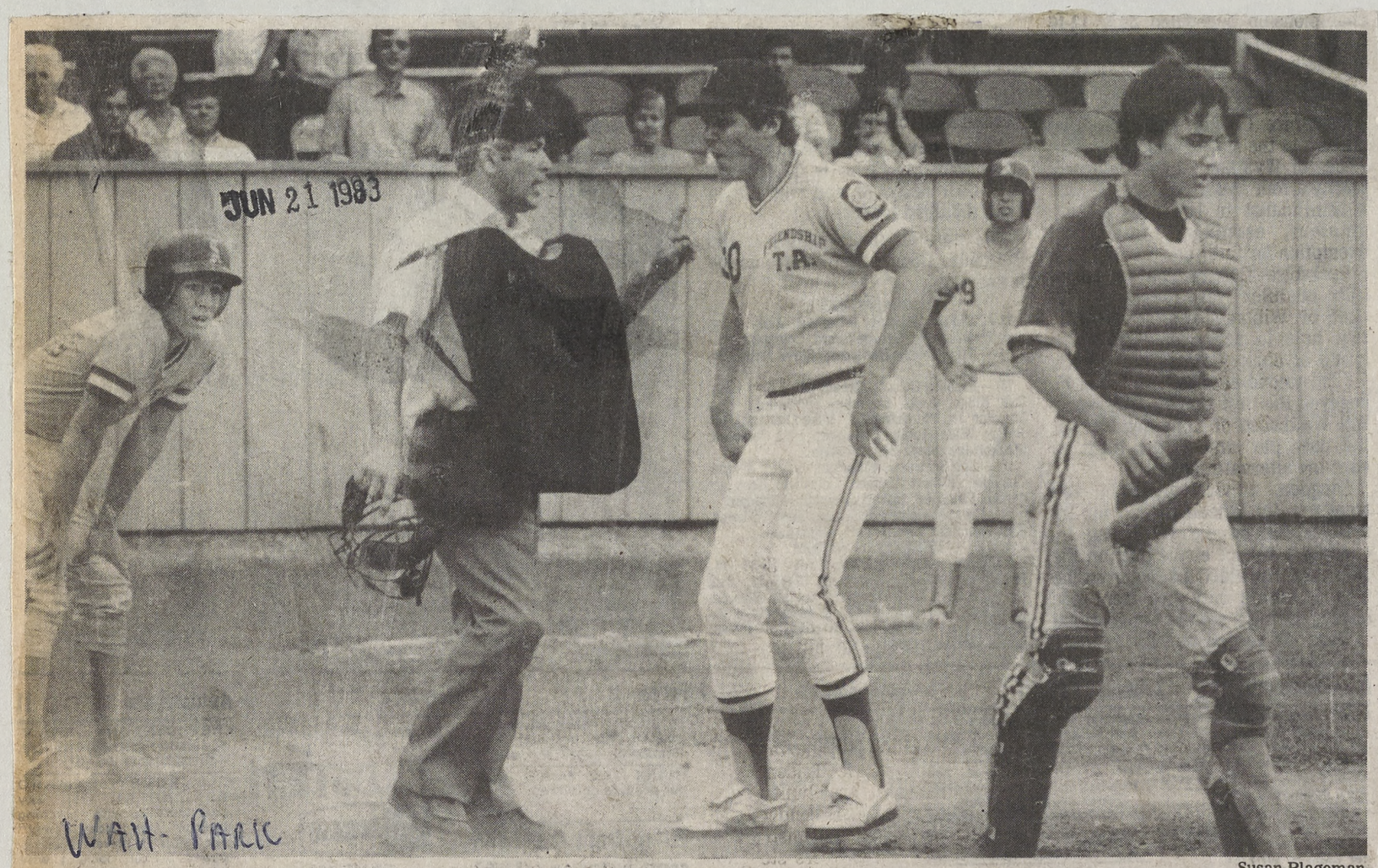
At Sheffield, the league's other unbeaten team — North Adams Stiles Post 125 — will face South Berkshire at the Berkshire School field. North Adams is 2-0, while South Berkshire is 0-2.

The other game will match Dalton, which is 1-1, and Lee-Lenox Dale, which is 0-2. That game was originally scheduled to be played at Lee High, but was been moved to the Wahconah Regional field in Dalton.

All three games are slated to start at 6 p.m.

JUN 20 1983

JUN 21 1983



WAH- PARK

Susan Plageman

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION during last night's Legion game found Friendship Tyler Aces' coach Russ Quetti arguing with home plate umpire Dick DiOrio after Paul Gaylord, watching at far left, was tagged out by Post 68 catcher Jim Collins, far right, in the fourth inning. Quetti argued that DiOrio had stopped play with a catcher's interference call. Gaylord was allowed to return to second base and the batter, John LeBeau, was awarded first. The Aces won the game 8-2.

Wahconah Park hosts Scouting Bureau tryout tomorrow

For the second straight year, the Major League Scouting Bureau will host a baseball tryout and instructional clinic at Wahconah Park. This year's session is scheduled for tomorrow at 9 a.m.

The Scouting Bureau represents 16 major league baseball teams, helping to find young talent around the country.

Registration begins promptly at 9 a.m., and the age limit is 16 to 25 years old. Players must appear in full uniform. American Legion players must bring a letter of approval from either their coach or legion commander in order to participate.

Players get a chance to display their skills during the early part of the session, and the top candidates are selected to play in a game that is scheduled to begin at about 11:30 a.m.

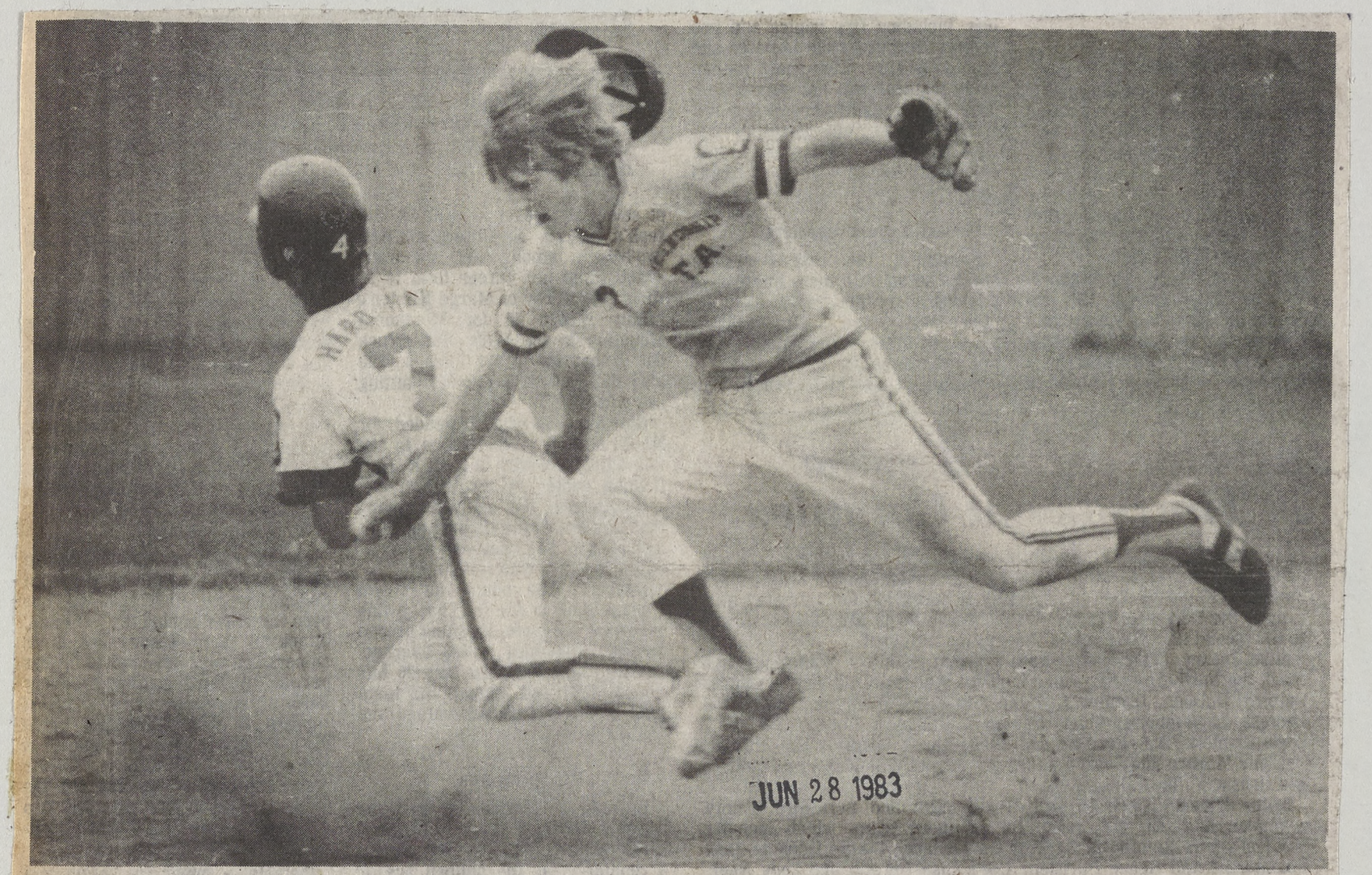
JUN 22 1983



Susan Plageman

SCRAMBLING toward the second-base bag, Pittsfield's Tim McMahon is safe with a stolen base as North Adams shortstop Nate Reynolds reaches for the throw during last night's American Legion game at Wahconah Park. Post 68 and North Adams played to a 4-4 tie before the game was called because of darkness.

JUN 25 1983



Susan Plageman

LUNGING to make the tag, Dave Bertolozzi, right, of the Friendship Tyler Aces gets Dalton runner Mike Gallagher (7) after Gallagher was hung up in a rundown in the seventh inning of last night's game at Wahconah Park.

WAIT PARK

Scouting Bureau tryout draws 81 baseball hopefuls

By Ray Lamont

Many were from the Berkshires, others came from places like Granville, N.Y., and Somers, Conn. Some played this spring for teams like Pittsfield High and Drury, others were from schools like Middle Georgia College.

In all, there were 81 of them — amateur baseball players between the ages of 16 and 25 — all hoping to somehow catch the eye of a major league scout.

The occasion was the second annual Major League Scouting Bureau' tryout camp, held yesterday at Wahconah Park. The camp here was the second of five to be held throughout New England. The camps are sponsored by the Major League Scouting Bureau, a combine that represents 16 of the major leagues' 26 teams.

Just for a look

Former Cubs' infielder Lenny Merullo, the director of the Scouting Bureau, emphasizes that the tryouts are not held to sign ballplayers. "We don't actually sign anybody," Merullo says. Instead, the tryouts give scouts a chance to get a look at potential prospects, and the bureau passes information on to the teams it represents. In turn, a team can follow up on any players it wants.

All players except pitchers are timed in a 60-yard dash — the distance from first to third or second to home — and evaluated on their throwing arms from the field. Dick Foley of the Scouting Bureau said that major league speed in the 60-yard dash is usually considered as seven seconds, and four players in the camp turned a 7.0 here yesterday. Throwing is evaluated on a basic scale from two through eight, and some players seemed alarmed when they were told their throwing scores were in the three range.

"But you have to remember that we're evaluating these players on a major league scale," Foley said. "A kid might have a good high school arm, but here we're judging them just like we'd judge the Yankees."

More big league scouts

Members of the Scouting Bureau weren't the only big league scouts in town yesterday. Others checking out the Wahconah Park prospects included veteran Pirates' scout Chick Whalen and John Kennedy, a 42-year-old Yankee scout whose 11-year major league career included stints with the Dodgers, Yankees, Red Sox and the old Washington Senators and Seattle Pilots. Both were essentially looking for a "sleeper," a prospect who may have somehow eluded their sights before.

"We know a lot of the better kids," Kennedy said. "But there are a lot of kids here that I don't know, and I might see something I like in a kid that would be worth checking into. You never know."

"We try to follow things as closely as possible," says Whalen, "but we're limited by time. You can't possibly get to see every kid on every team in every league. Of course we miss some — especially after a spring like this, where there were so many rainouts. A tryout like this gives us a chance to pick out somebody we might have missed."

Yet a player's chances of being discovered at a tryout like yesterday's are fairly slim. Merullo says if three players are signed out of every 1,000 who show up in his camps, he's happy. "Last year, we had four players signed out of these camps," he commented. "That's a very good year."

The jury on this year's Wahconah Park crop is still out. "A lot of good infielders," Merullo said, appraising yesterday's turnout. "Especially at third and short . . . just about everybody out there fielded the ball well and threw well. They're a good group." But the Pittsfield tryout posted decent marks a year ago. Gary Tremblay of Rensselaer, N.Y., a strong-armed catcher who appeared here last year, was drafted this spring by the Red Sox. And Pittsfield's own Joe Winters, a left-handed pitcher currently with the Atlanta Braves' organization in Bradenton, Fla., was signed less than a week after throwing in last year's Wahconah Park workout. "He had good tools," Merullo recalled. "He had a good build for a pitcher, and a good, live arm. That's what we look for."

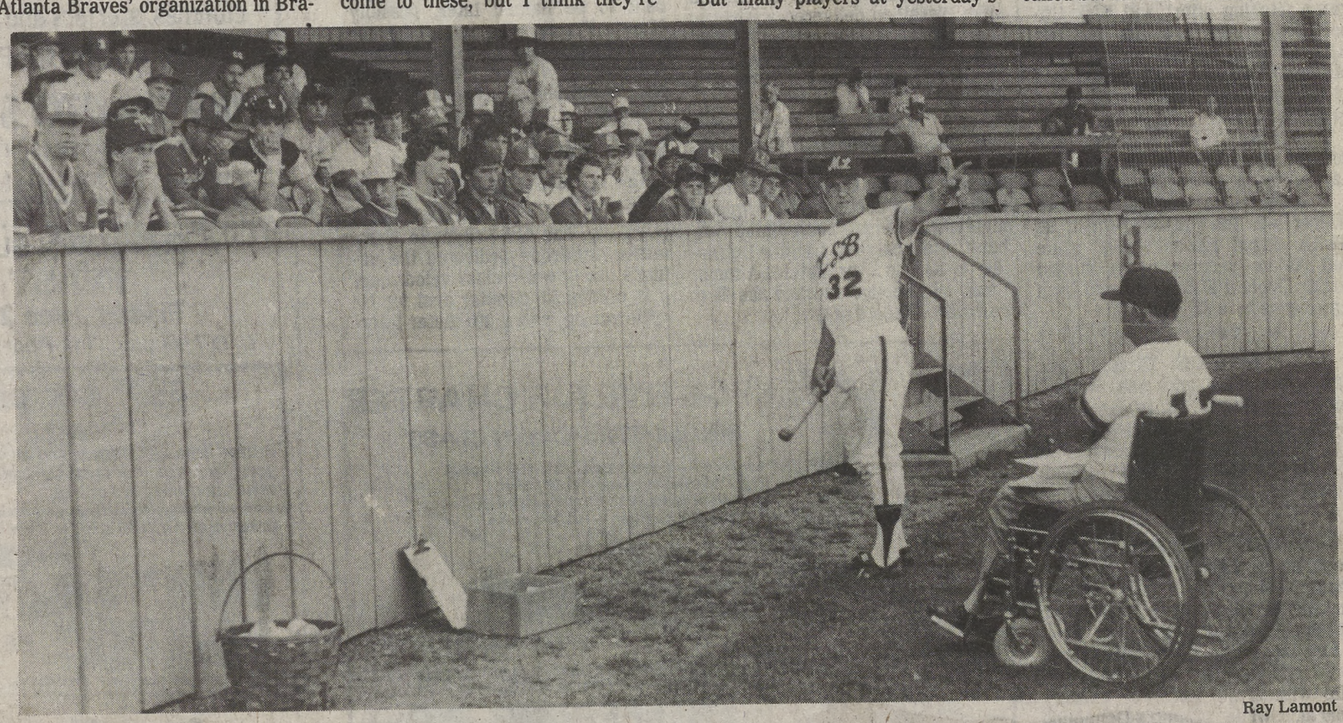
Seeking college talent

Not all the scouts were here checking for potential big leaguers. One of those looking on was Dartmouth College head coach Mike Walsh. "Not many college coaches come to these, but I think they're great," Walsh said of the tryouts. "If I go to five of these, I can see 700 or 800 kids. And kids from all over . . . Pittsfield kids, Albany kids, Springfield kids . . . they're all here. I'm looking mostly for kids that have just finished their junior year of high school, and if I see a kid that shows a lot of athletic ability, then we'll follow up through his high school or Legion coaches and see what kind of a student he is. If he fits our program, we'll talk to him."

But many players at yesterday's workout didn't quite fit even the Scouting Bureau's program. After going through the running and throwing workouts, many of the top prospects were then chosen to participate in a scrimmage. But by noon, others were already facing what might be termed their first professional cut.

"We'd like to use you all [in the scrimmage]," Merullo politely told the players. "Unfortunately, it just doesn't work that way."

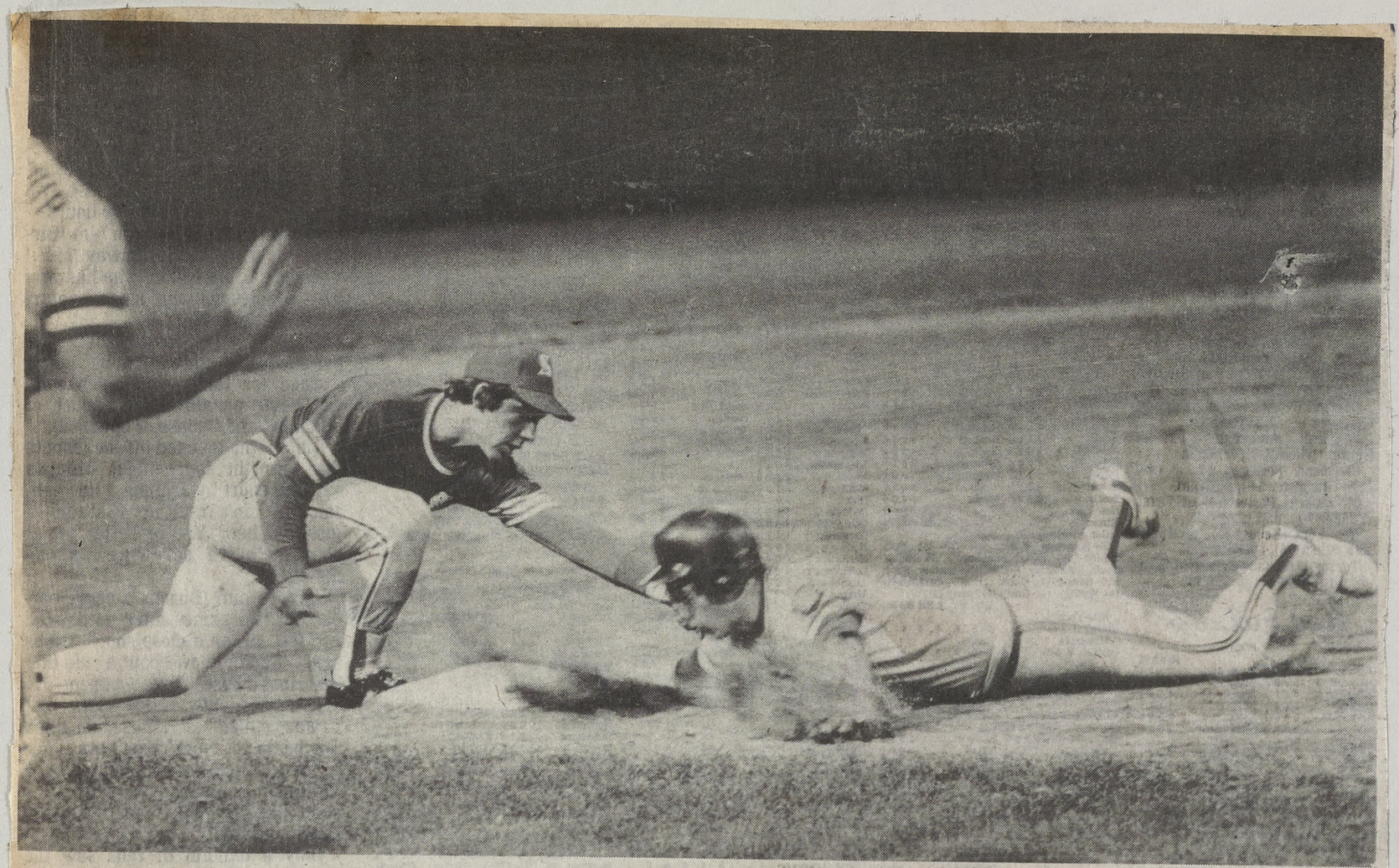
Alas, even in baseball, many are called but few are chosen.



Ray Lamont

PROSPECTS listen attentively to Major League Scouting Bureau director Lenny Merullo, pointing at center, prior to the start of yesterday's tryout camp at Wahconah Park. The tryout drew a total of 81 players. Bureau scout Dick Foley is at right.

JUN 24 1983



Susan Plageman

HEAD FIRST into third base goes Craig Turnbull of the Friendship Tyler Aces, who reached after ripping a two-run triple amid a nine-run Aces' second inning during last night's game against South Berkshire at Wahconah Park. Applying the tag is South Berkshire third baseman John Posey. The Aces won the game 18-2.

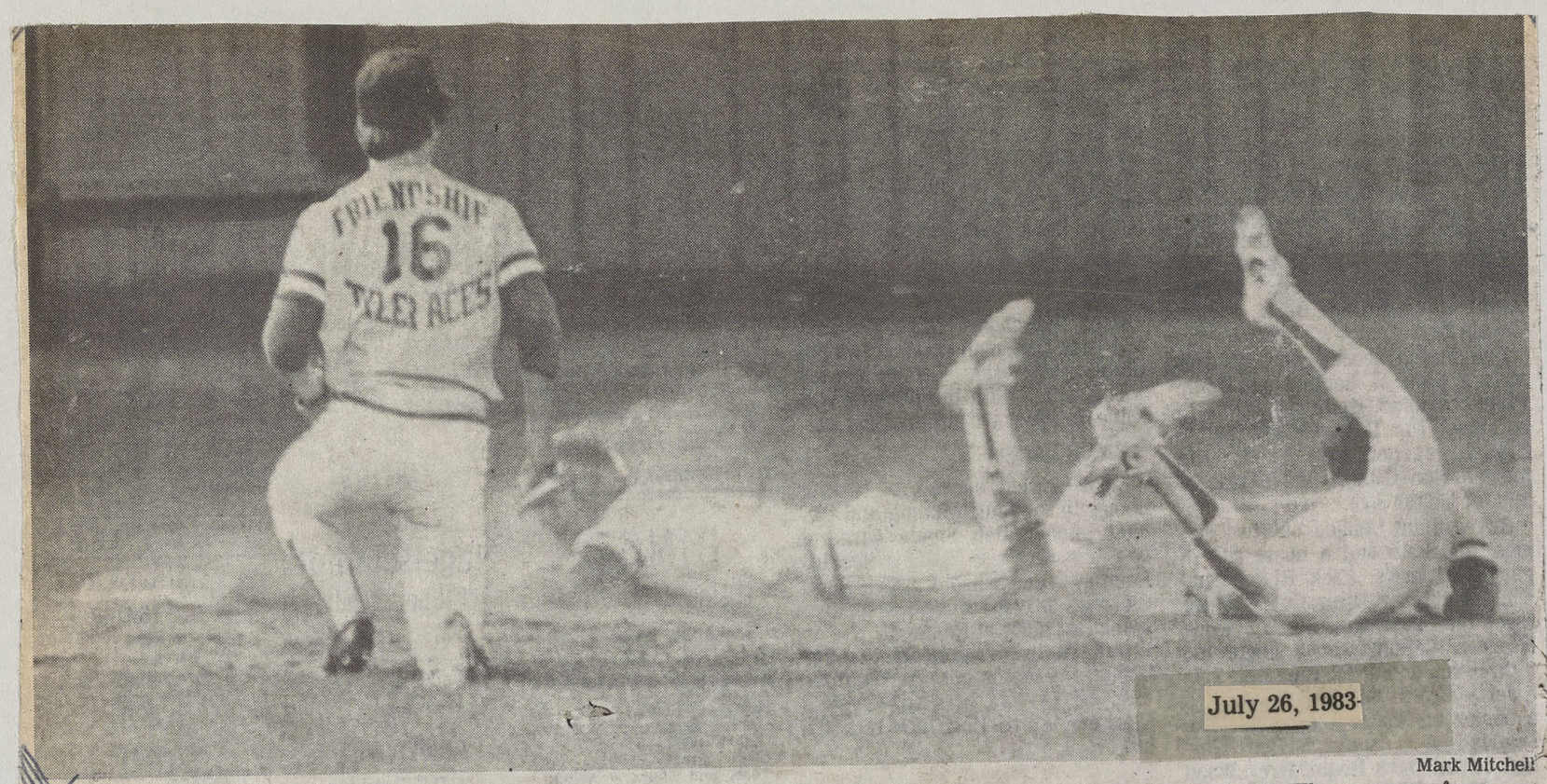
July 12, 1983



JUL 19 1983

Susan Plageman

KNOCKED FOR A LOOP by North Adams runner Scott Braman (obscured, with black pants), Friendship Tyler Aces shortstop Tom Rizzo, left, hits the deck after colliding with Braman on a rundown play during last night's game at Wahconah Park. Braman was safe on the play. Umpire Ed Ladley and Aces' second baseman John LeBeau watch the action at right. The Aces beat North Adams 7-3 to clinch the Berkshire County League Legion championship.



July 26, 1983

Mark Mitchell

DIVING TAG by Friendship Tyler Aces shortstop Tom Rizzo, right, reached Dalton Collegians' runner Sean McMahon (with helmet) to complete double play in fourth inning of last night's 10-0 Dalton win at Wahconah Park. Throw came from left fielder Rick Rabideau. Aces' third baseman Tim Gauthier (16) kneels at left.

Lovellette benefit raises $300

July 26, 1983

Collegians overpower Aces, 10-0

By Bob McDonough

Four pitchers combined to hurl a four-hit shutout last night as the Dalton Collegians asserted their power as the county's toughest baseball team with a solid 10-0 win over the Friendship Tyler Aces in an exhibition game that drew a crowd of about 200 to Wahconah Park.

The contest was a benefit game for Keith Lovellette, a former star outfielder for both teams, who lost a heel when he was struck by an automobile last year. About $300 was raised to help pay for his continuing surgery to rebuild the heel. Lovellette, also a University of Massachusetts baseball standout, was in the Collegians dugout throughout last night's game.

Dave Eisenberg, Brian Suriner, John Broderick and Jay Cassella were the hurlers who combined for the shutout, striking out nine Aces along the way. Former Pittsfield High standout Sean McMahon delivered three singles to lead the 10-hit attack by the Collegians, who lifted their record to 32-2 with the victory.

Starting pitchers Eisenberg and Rick Rabideau dueled through a scoreless, hitless two innings before the Collegians broke through with six runs in the third inning off the Pittsfield right-hander.

Ron Bartlett led off the third with a booming triple for the Collegians, but it appeared he might be stranded there when Rabideau fanned the next two batters. But McMahon's looping single to center broke the tie and opened the floodgates. Rick Murphy delivered two more runs with a long triple to center field, Rabideau hit two batters, and Jeff Cimini and Bartlett added RBI singles before the outburst was quelled.

The six-run bulge was plenty for the Dalton squad, as the Aces got runners to third base only twice against the four Collegian pitchers.

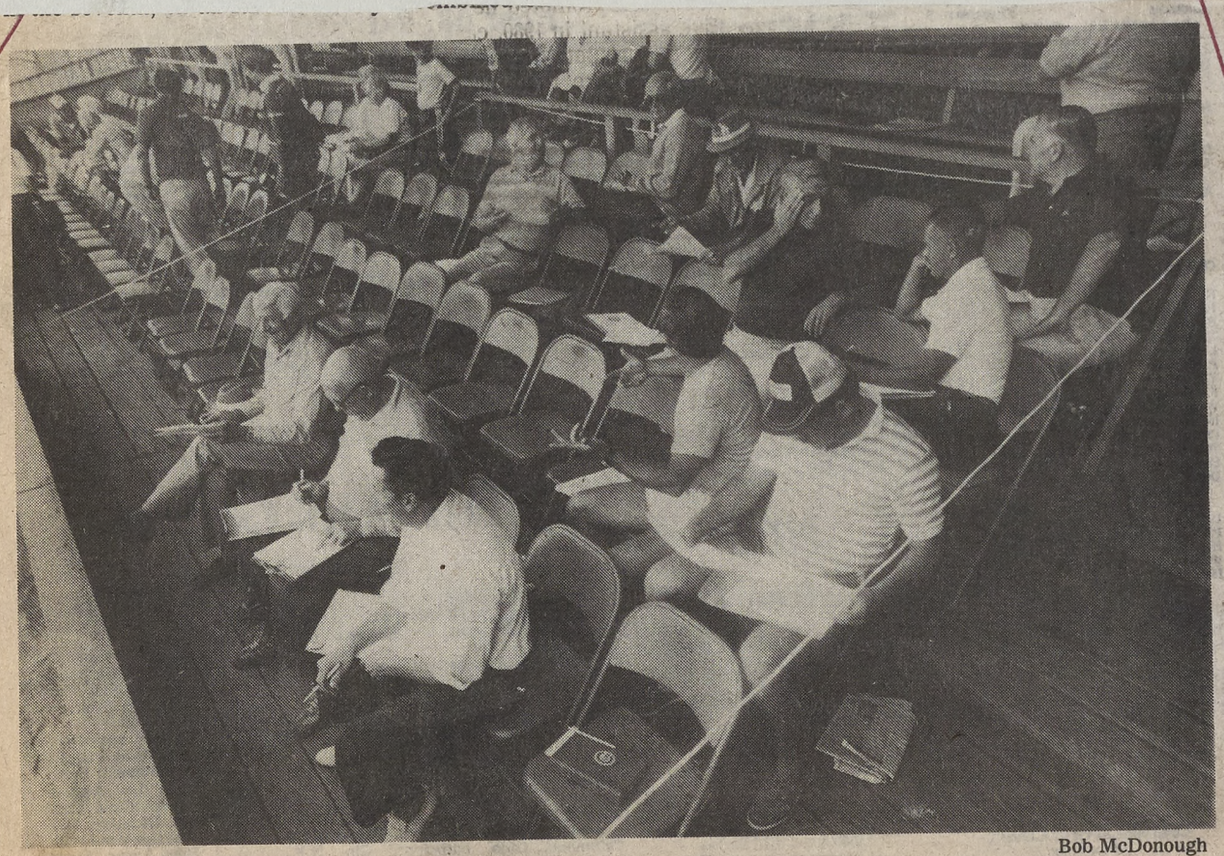
A walk, a single by Rabideau and a wild pitch put Aces on second and third with no outs in the fourth, but Suriner got consecutive strikeouts and a ground ball to kill that rally. The Aces loaded the bases in the next inning, but Suriner again escaped unscathed by serving up a ground ball out to end the inning.

The Collegians, fresh off victory in their own CRA tournament Saturday, settled the matter with four runs in the final four innings, scoring on three sacrifice flies and a fielder's choice.

"It was good to see some better pitching, and I think we benefited a lot by this tonight," said Aces' coach Russ Quetti, whose team went 17-1 in the Berkshire County league and is scheduled to open state tournament play Friday. "The Collegians are a lot older, most of them, and most are Tyler Aces graduates," Quetti added. "I thought our kids were great. They didn't get rattled when they got behind."

Collegians' coach Mike Casey sees his powerful squad as the logical next step for talented American Legion graduates.

"I feel they're the best team around, and they've proven it," Casey said proudly.



Bob McDonough

ROPED-OFF SECTION of the Wahconah Park grandstand has been reserved for the many major league scouts attending this week's American Legion Northeast Regional baseball tournament.

AUG 26 1983

CROWD OF 5,400

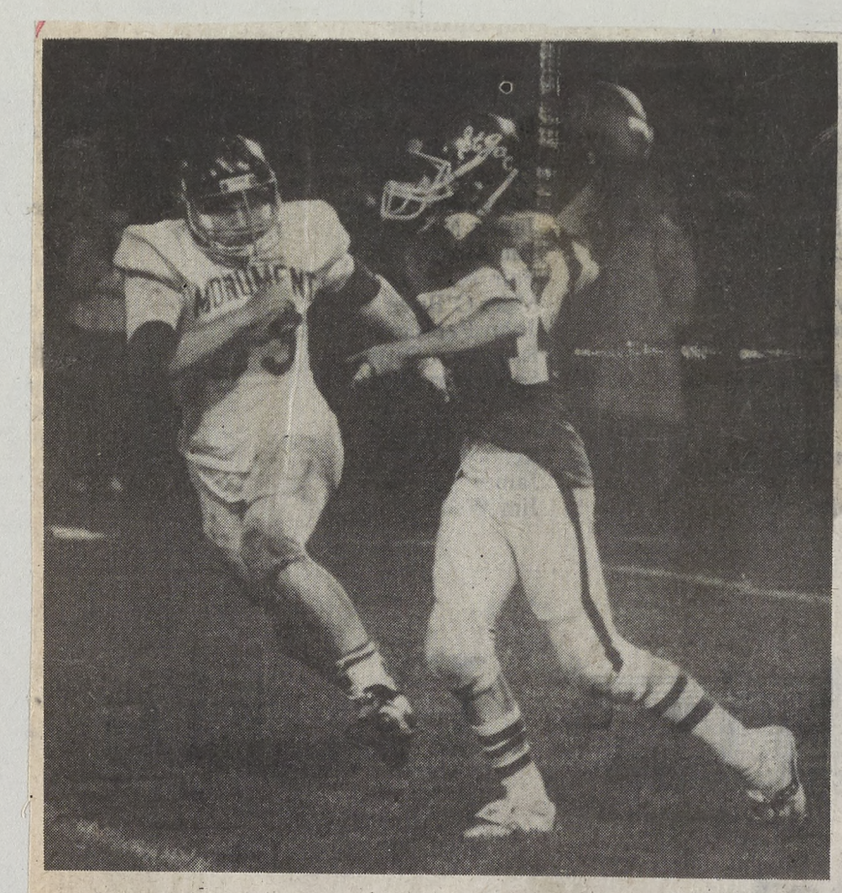
AUG 6 1983



Susan Plageman

GUNS FLY INTO THE AIR as Alliance of Greater Boston marches in the Precision & Pageantry '83 drum and bugle corps competition. Seven corps performed last night before an enthusiastic crowd, and Alliance came in second.

Vanguard is tops at Wahconah Park as 7 drum and bugle corps compete



Susan Plageman

IN PURSUIT of St. Joseph's quarterback Jim Herrick is Monument Mountain tri-captain Tony Campetti in third quarter action last night at Wahconah Park. Herrick was intercepted by Bruce Morelli on the play. Monument won the game, 19-13.

OCT 15 1983

Wahconah Park and space stations

SEP 23 1983

Call it the Evan Dobelle phenomenon. An incumbent office-holder decides to pre-empt support for a likely opponent by pushing a project that is right down the opponent's ally. In Mr. Dobelle's case back in 1975, this meant proposing a new city football field as a way to steal a march on his opponent for re-election as mayor, William F. Murray, science teacher and highly successful football coach.

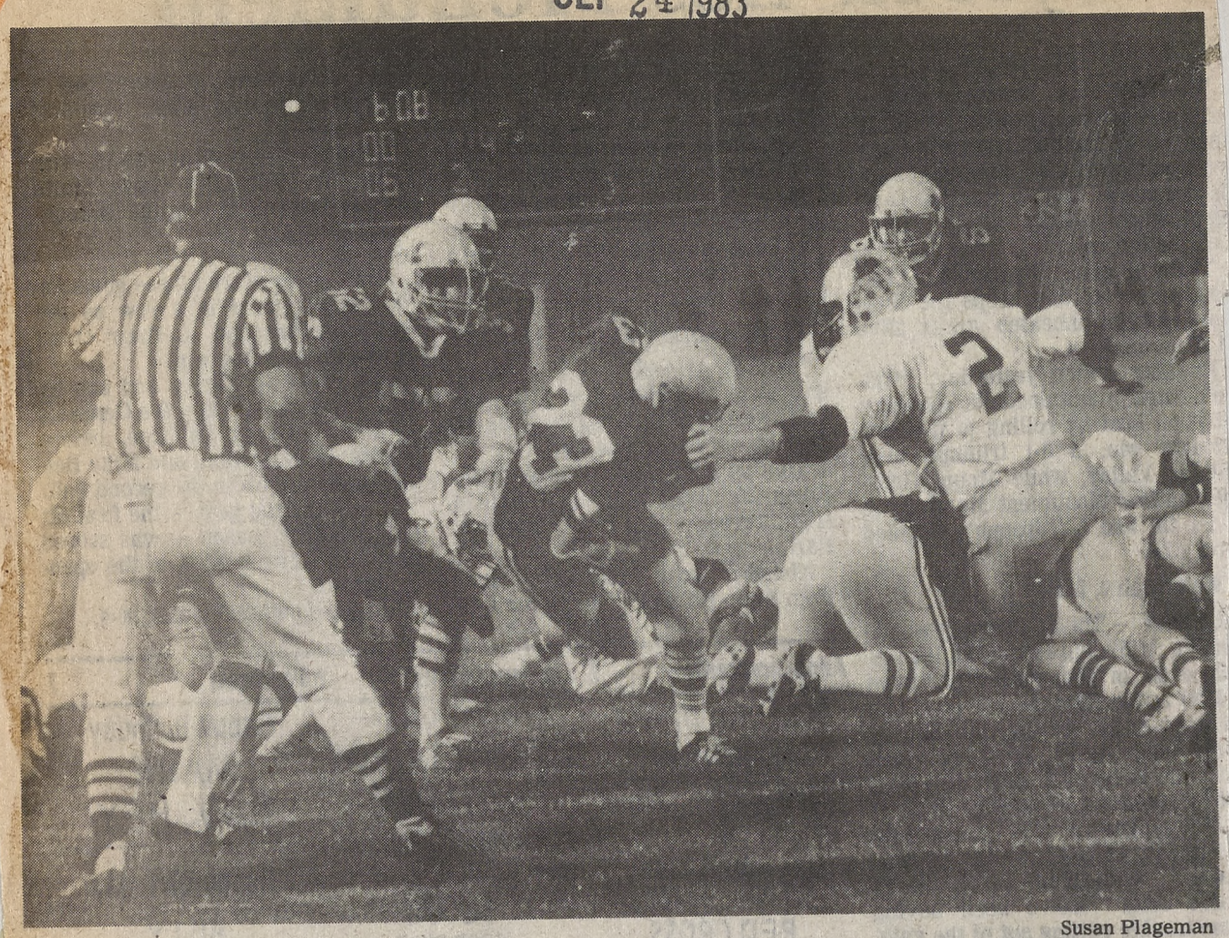
President Reagan, it seems, has something similar up his sleeve. On the suspicion that Mr. Reagan's opponent for re-election next year (should the president choose to run) will be Senator John Glenn, the White House is pushing a plan for a multibillion-dollar manned space station. What better way to steal some of the thunder from the former astronaut who was the first American to orbit the earth?

The hitch, of course, is the money. An interesting coalition of agencies, including the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Office of Management and Budget, is questioning whether the $6 billion to $8 billion expense of the space station would be worth it. The Pentagon is particularly concerned that the money for this project could come out of its skin. Both the military and the spy agency say that unmanned satellites will be sufficient for all their intelligence needs, at much less cost.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is all for it, not surprisingly, and is planning to ask for $200 million in the 1985 budget as start-up funds for what it envisions will be a four-to-six-man station, to be launched into a low orbit by 1991. But there is dissent even from the scientific camp. A National Academy of Sciences space-science group told NASA last week that there would be no scientific justification for the facility until after the turn of the century. In the meantime, shuttles and satellites will suffice.

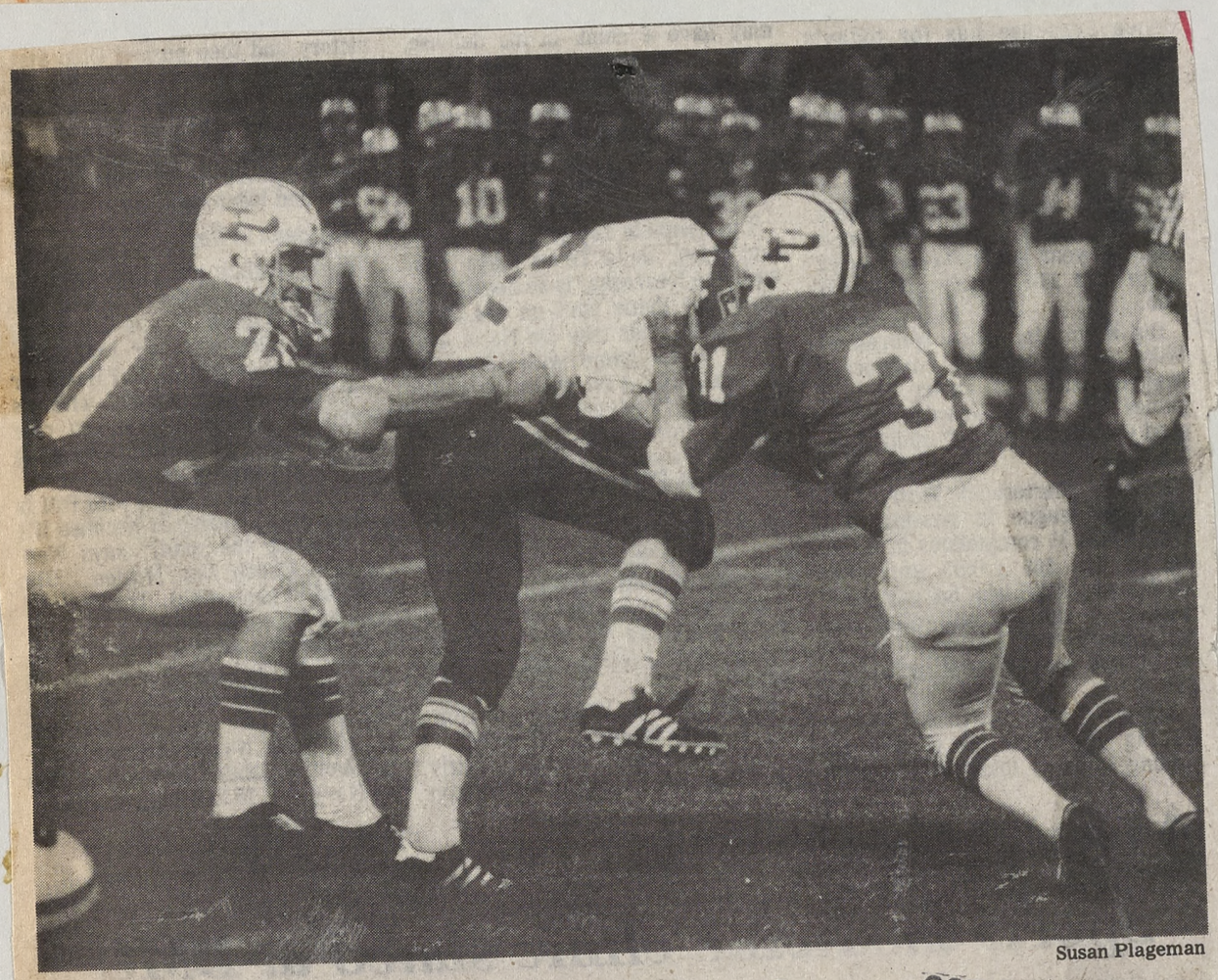
If Mr. Dobelle's football field proposal is any guide, the space-station project can only end badly. The mayor's original plan for a new field was transformed into the $750,000 failed "rehabilitation" of Wahconah Park. But for the White House the more interesting precedent in the Dobelle phenomenon is that, quite aside from the Wahconah Park boondoggle, he did win re-election — only to become a Democrat.

SEP 24 1983



Susan Plageman

STOPPED in his bid for first-down yardage deep inside Northampton territory is Taconic running back Tae Caesar (23). Action came in second quarter of Taconic's 36-0 loss at Wahconah Park last night.



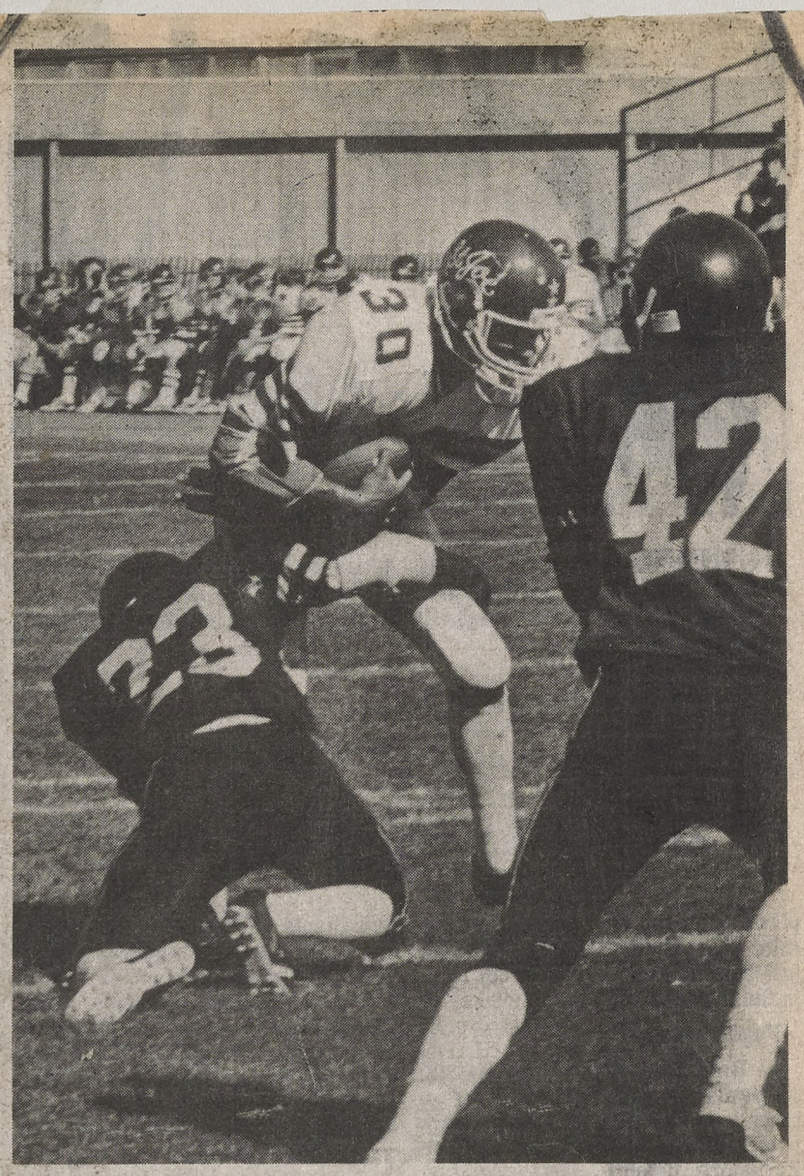
Susan Plageman

Hold it right there

OCT 1 1983

Mount Anthony running back Jeff Pembroke finds his path interrupted by the grasp of Pittsfield High tacklers Glenn Houle, left, and Paul Gaylord, right, during first half of Pittsfield's 26-6 football victory last night at Wahconah Park.

OCT 2 1983



Mark Mitchell

BUSTING LOOSE for St. Joseph's first touchdown Saturday against Putnam at Wahconah Park is Kosior League scoring leader Troy Robinson. The undefeated Crusaders won, 14-0.

PHS-Wahconah night tilt heads school soccer slate

Northern Division contenders Pittsfield High and Wahconah meet tonight at 7:30 at Wahconah Park in a key boys' game that highlights a busy 10-game high school soccer schedule today.

Five boys' games and five girls' contests make up the schedule, with all but the PHS-Wahconah game slated to be played this holiday morning.

Though Wahconah remains the only undefeated boys' team in the county, and the Warriors boast a 26-game league unbeaten streak, they still, with a record of 5-0-1, trail 6-1 Pittsfield by one point in the Northern Division standings. Wahconah is also unbeaten in its last five games against PHS, having won the Northern Division crown for the past two years. Pittsfield, however, won the Northern Division or county title for seven straight years before that. Oddly, both teams go into tonight's game with 35 goals for and only seven against.

In other boys' play today, Monument Mountain, which is 3-1-2 and just four points out of first in the North, also has a key game against St. Joseph's, which is 2-3-1, at Clapp Park. Elsewhere, Southern Division leader Lenox (6-1) will be at Hoosac Valley (1-5), Drury (1-5) will be at Mount Everett (1-5), and Lee (2-5) will be at Mount Greylock (4-1-1). All those games are slated to begin at 10 a.m.

In girls' play, unbeaten Mount Greylock, which leads the Northern Division with a record of 6-0, will be at Drury, which is 1-3-2, while Southern Division-leading Lenox, with a 4-1-1 mark, will be at home for a game against 1-5 St. Joseph's.

In other action, Taconic (4-2) will be at Monument Mountain (5-2) and Pittsfield (4-1-2) will be at Wahconah (4-2) in a pair of key Northern Division games, while Lee (2-5) will host Mount Everett (0-6) in a Southern Division clash. All five girls' games are set to get underway at 10 a.m.

In the only game played over the weekend, defending Vermont state champion Mount Anthony downed the Mount Greylock boys 4-0 Saturday night in an independent game at Bennington, Vt. Erik Vignes led Mount Anthony, which is now 12-0, with two goals and one assist.



OCT 11 1983

Joel Librizzi

HOLDING ON after making a save during last night's game at Wahconah Park, Wahconah goalkeeper John Vosburgh, in striped shirt, gets support from Warrior defender Mark McCaleb, left, as Pittsfield's Dan Miclette slides by at right. PHS beat Wahconah 2-1, snapping the Warriors' 26-game Berkshire County League unbeaten streak.

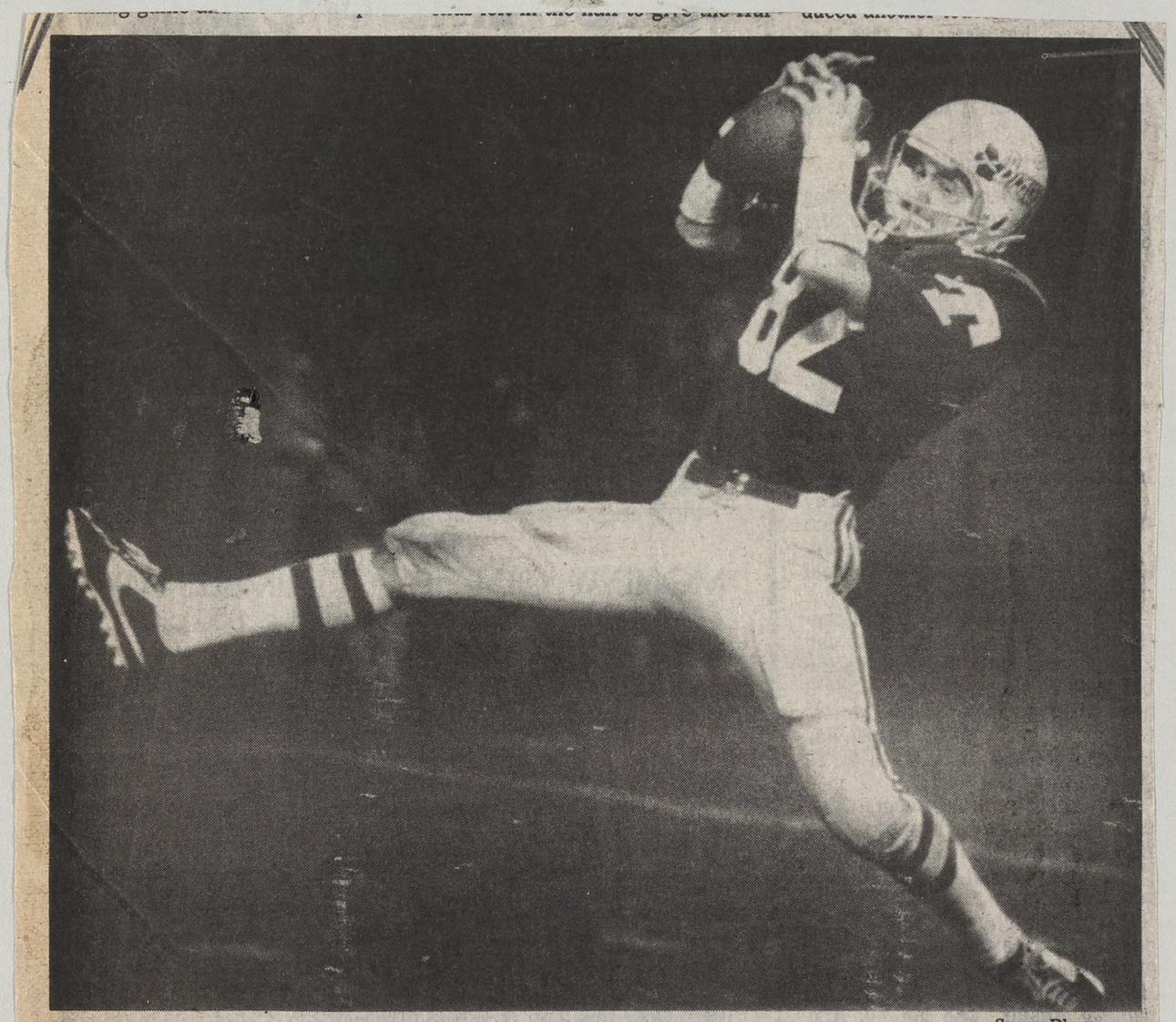
St. Joe-Pittsfield night game tops soccer schedule

Two games featuring unbeaten teams, including the first night game of the season, highlight today's high school soccer schedule, which includes five boys' games and five girls' games.

The boys' schedule is highlighted by the first night game of the season at Wahconah Park, as Pittsfield (3-0) takes on St. Joseph's (2-0) at 7:30 p.m. In other games, Mount Greylock (1-1-1) is at Drury (0-3), Mount Everett (0-2) at Hoosac Valley (0-2), Wahconah (2-0-1) at Taconic (0-3) and Lenox (2-1) at Lee (2-0).

Northern Division co-leaders Mount Greylock and Taconic, both 3-0, tangle this afternoon in Williamstown in the spotlight game of the girls' schedule. In other games, the third Northern co-leader Monument Mountain (3-0) hosts Pittsfield (1-1-1), Hoosac Valley (0-2-1) is at Mount Everett (0-3), Drury (0-1-1) at Wahconah (1-1) and Lee (1-2) at Lenox (0-[illegible]

SEP 27 1983



Susan Plageman

LEAPING Taconic receiver Mark Provencher pulls down a 34-yard pass from quarterback Frank Ott midway through the second quarter in a game against Hoosac Valley last night at Wahconah Park. The reception helped set up Taconic's first touchdown, but the Braves went on to lose the game 27-15.

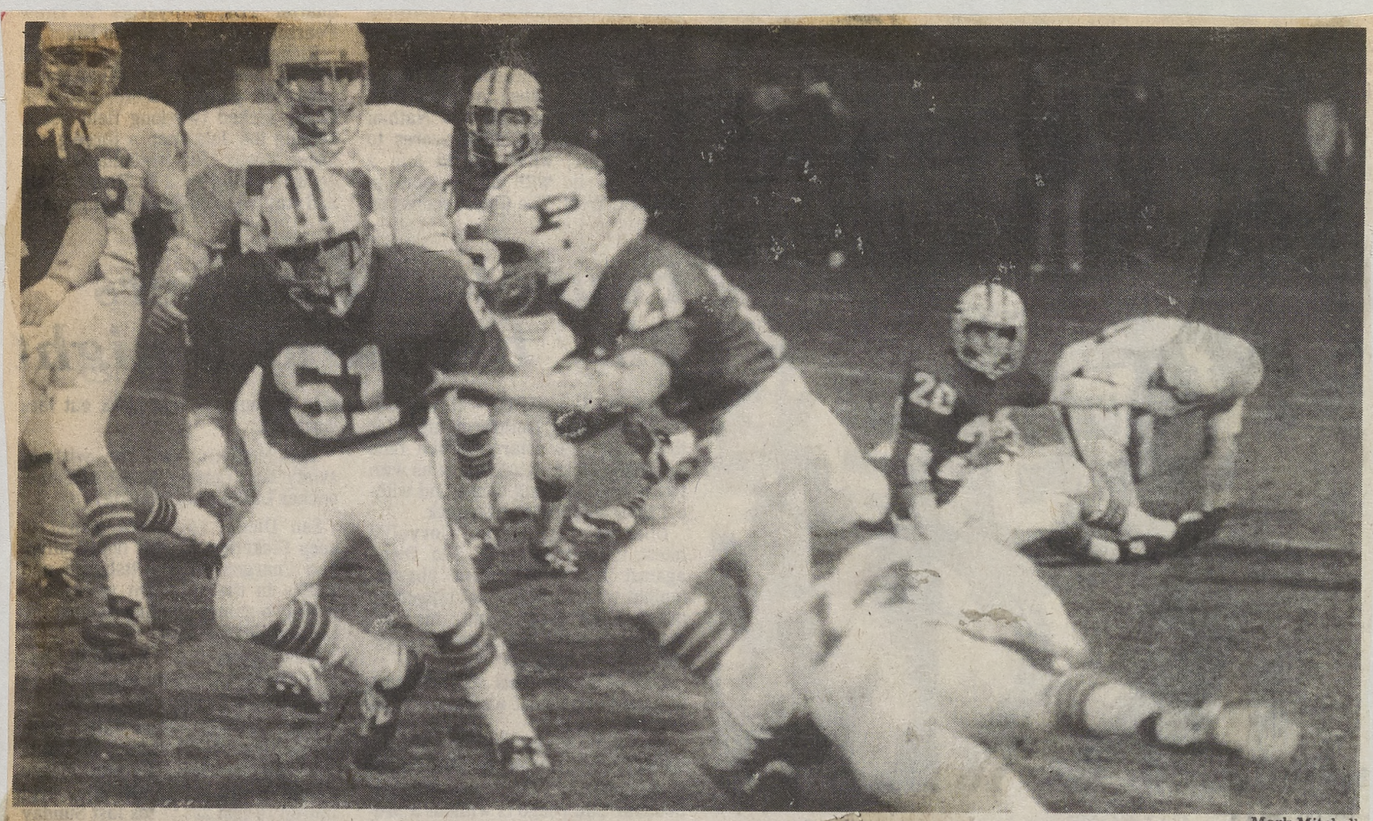
OCT 8 1983



Mark Mitchell

CLOSING IN to tackle Wahconah fullback Joe Larson (34) last night at Wahconah Park is Taconic's Tac aesar (23). Larson rushed for 63 yards to help the Warriors to a 34-6 victory.

OCT 20 1983



Mark Mitchell

SCRAMBLING for a short gain Saturday night at Wahconah Park as teammate Eric Rubin (61) looks on is Pittsfield tailback Joe Adornetto (21). Drury's Mike Keleher (14) closes in to make the tackle. Adornetto rushed for 100 yards on 20 carries to help the Generals to a 28-22 victory over the Blue Devils, breaking Pittsfield's three-game losing streak.

OCT 31 1983



Mark Mitchell

How sweet it is

OCT 31 1983

Mount Greylock's Dave Montgomery (64) and teammate Del Keyes exchange "high fives" after Keyes returned an interception 43 yards late in Saturday's game to sew up a 23-0 victory over St. Joseph's and Greylock's fourth consecutive Kosior League championship. Story is on Page 34.

Area sports

NOV 8 1983

PHS-THS Alumni game set

ALUMNI FOOTBALL: The third annual Pittsfield High-Taconic Alumni football game is scheduled for Thanksgiving Day morning at 10 at Wahconah Park.

PHS alumnus Paul Metallo, who is organizing the game, said $250 would be donated to the city's Junior Football League. Remaining proceeds will go to the booster clubs at both high schools to help pay for football equipment. The Park Commission agreed at its meeting Monday to waive the rental fee for the field.

Pittsfield High has won the first two contests, posting a 13-12 victory in 1981 and winning by a 7-0 count last year.

Any former football players from either high school under the age of 35 are eligible to play in the game. Current Pittsfield High mentor Mike Murgo will coach the Generals, with Guy Boos and Charlie Kruger set to lead Taconic.

Tickets for the game will be available beginning today from both schools' booster clubs and from all of the players. Tickets are $2 for adults and $1 students and seniors. There will be an additional 50 cent charge the day of the game.

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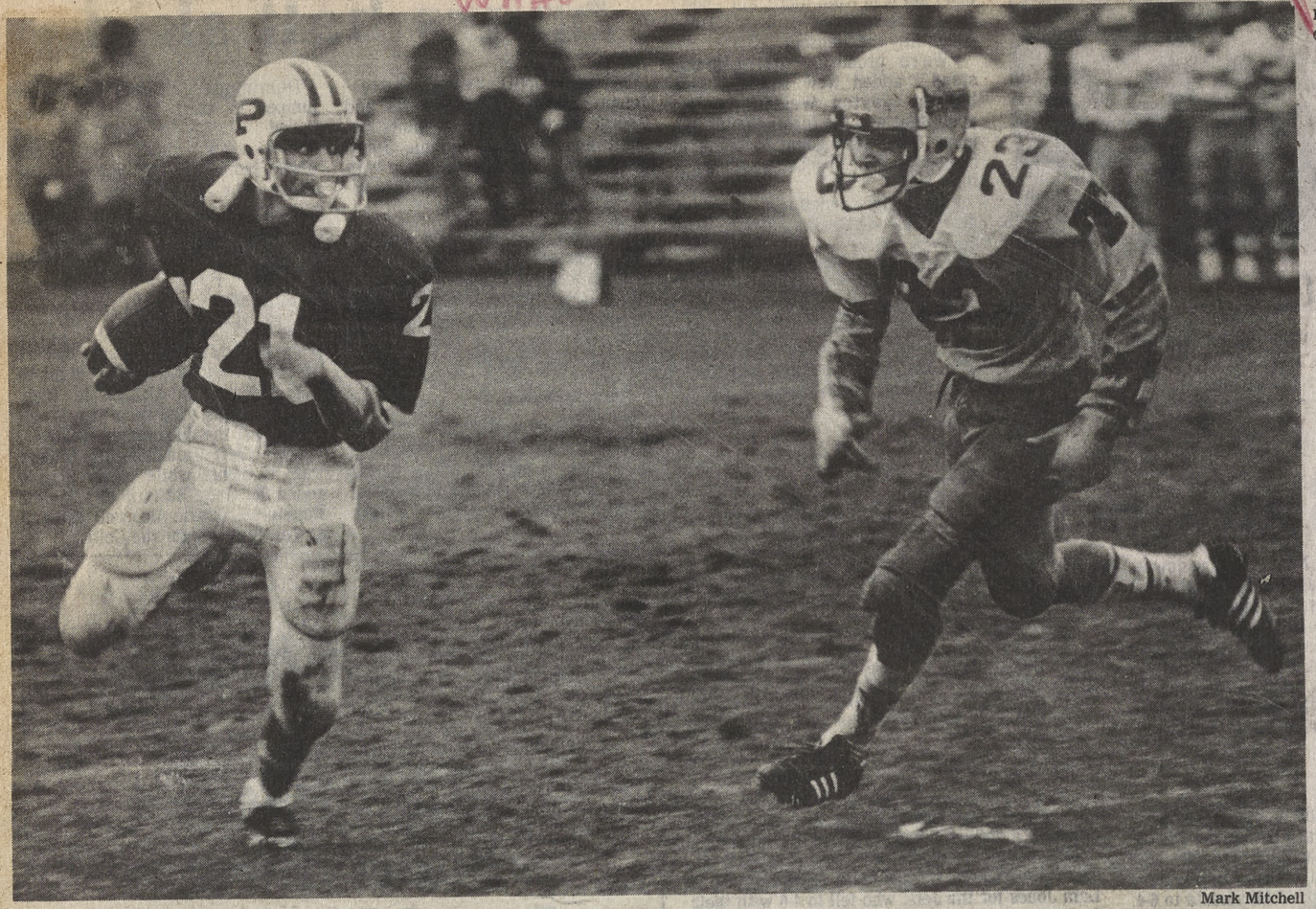
peted in the Empire One tournament. Pat Mele of Pittsfield took third place in the men's open division, while Cindy Leach of Pittsfield was the runner-up in the women's open division, losing to Empire One pro Joanie Quinlan 15-8, 15-11 in the final.

In the men's 30-and-over group, Pittsfield's Dave Janelle took first place. Dudley Kinnas of Pittsfield claimed top honors in men's C singles.

Kinnas teamed with fellow Pittsfield resident Monte Shepard to win the men's B-C doubles title. In open doubles, Eksuzian and Mele took third place.

92.

NOV 7 1983



Mark Mitchell

OFF AND RUNNING during Saturday's Jaycee Bowl game against Taconic, Pittsfield High's Joe Adornetto, left, keeps a close eye on Taconic defender Tac Caesar as he turns the corner. Adornetto rushed for 174 yards as PHS won 24-16.

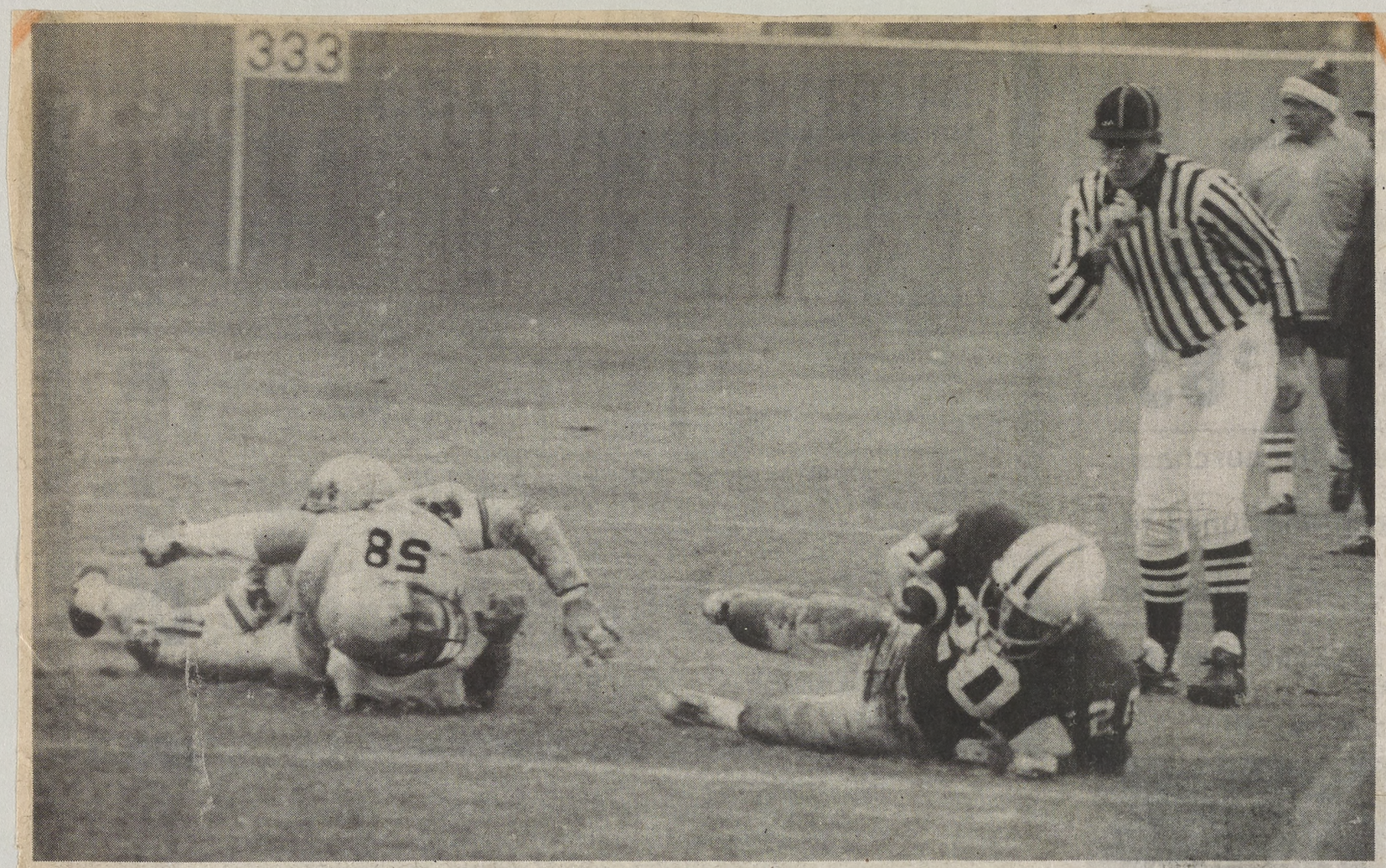


Susan Plageman

Going for broke

NOV 9 1983

Mike Bellora (11) of the Pittsfield High boys' soccer team leaps high up over the back of Mount Greylock defender Greg Gaver in an effort to head this ball into the net during yesterday's county championship game at Wahconah Park. Greylock goalie Brian Leslie charges out to join action at left. Bellora didn't score here, but PHS still won the game 4-2.



Joel Librizzi

WAHCONAH PARK

KNOCKED DOWN near the sideline, PHS runner Rich Tuggey (20) grasps the ball while Taconic tackler Joe Murphy (58) sprawls with a shoulder injury that forced him out of the game.

NOV 25 1983

Friday, Nov. 25, 1983



Bob McDonough

HUDDLED TOGETHER against the elements are two members of yesterday's sparse crowd who braved the rain and mud to view the third annual Pittsfield-Taconic alumni football game at Wahconah Park.

JAN 21 1983

Lack of funds seen threatening fishing derbies

The popular spring fishing derbies at Wild Acres Pond for children and senior citizens may not be held this year.

Franklin H. Controy, chairman of the Pittsfield Conservation Commission, said last night he had about given up hope of obtaining funding for the events. He said, "Proposition 2½ has done us in."

Last year, faced with a similar situation, he appealed to civic organizations and raised $2,650 from clubs and individuals. The Pittsfield Rotary Club gave $1,500; Exchange Club, $900; Itam Lodge, $100; Arthur Trasatti, Skyline Country Club, $100, and Charles Bashara, Tyler Restaurant and the Hagar Club composed of restaurant patrons and named for the "Hagar the Horrible" comic strip character, $50.

As result of this response, Controy said, "Mayor Charles Smith and the City Council came through with $1,600 to give us the $4,250 needed."

Two derbies were conducted for children, two for senior citizens and one for handicapped children.

Controy said that neither the Rotary Club nor Exchange Club will be contributing this year and that "without this kind of money and the city appropriation, I don't see how the derbies can be held."

However, he said he hasn't closed the door on offers of support and would like to hear from any club, organization business or individual wanting to make a sizable donation.

MAY 10 1983

Fishing derby in limbo

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Many young and elderly fishermen are probably waiting for the announcement in *The Eagle* of the annual Wild Acres fishing derby. Well, they can forget it! Due to Proposition 2½, there will be no derby this year — unless approximately $4,000 can be raised by the private sector.

Each year for at least the last 10, boys and girls (ages 6 through 15) and also fishermen over 65 enjoyed the annual Wild Acres fishing events. For this event to end now would be sad, not only because of the loss of fishing but also because the facilities at Wild Acres are really beautiful after years of hard work by volunteer groups.

Before your readers inundate the Park Department with inquiries on this matter, I wish they would write me a letter indicating interest in raising the necessary financial support to keep this fine tradition going. But they will have to be prompt if they want a fishing derby this year.

BERNARD J. GOCLOWSKI
287 Holmes Road
Pittsfield

At Wild Acres

MAY 23 1983

$1,500 pledged so far to fund fishing derby

There may be a Wild Acres fishing derby or derbies after all.

Bernard J. Goclowski of 287 Holmes Road said Friday he had received $1,500 in pledges for funding the derbies and, with the help of others, hopes to raise a total of $4,000.

"I have talked with Franklin H. Controy, Conservation Commission chairman," Goclowski said, "and he told me that $1,500 would take care of one derby, but that $4,000 would be required for derbies for both children and seniors."

He has called a meeting for Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at West Side Community School for "Friends of Wild Acres" to organize support for raising the needed funds.

The pledges received to date resulted from Goclowski's letter to the editor of The Eagle, published May 10, and personal campaigning by him. The letter deplored the cancellation of the derbies because of Proposition 2½ and urged people who wished to keep them going to write to him.

He said he expects to receive $1,000 from the Pittsfield Aerie of Eagles, which is liquidating its assets as a result of losing its home on First Street through mortgage foreclosure. Also, he said Ward 5 Councilman Francis A. Chichetto Jr. is asking that the $300 in council salary he, like other councilors, is foregoing, be turned over to the derby fund.

Goclowski, an engineer in marketing at General Electric ordnance plant, attributes his interest in Wild Acres to his son "B.J.," 14, who has fished out there and has become skilled in fly fishing, fly-tying and rod making under the tutelage of Peter W. Panus of 326 Gale Ave.

Anyone wishing to donate to the derby fund may make out a check payable to "Friends of Wild Acres" and mail it to Goclowski at 287 Holmes Road. He said he plans to open a special account in a local bank.

More fishing slated for elderly at Wild Acres

Senior citizens 60 years of age and over will be allowed to fish at Wild Acres on Monday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the second time this season. However, they must have a Massachusetts fishing license.

Last Monday 79 seniors tried their luck and caught 239 trout, Vincent J. Hebert, superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department, reported. Prizes were awarded to the first three fishermen who caught tagged fish. They were Philip H. Krause of 19 Profile St., Joseph J. Evangelisto of 31 Monroe St. and John Cianfarini of 1134 Holmes Road.

Children 6 to 14 years old will be allowed to fish Monday, starting at 1. They can fish other days from 7 to 7, but the gate to the grounds isn't open for cars until noon unless the pavilion is in use.

Bernard J. Goclowski, acting chairman of the Friends of Wild Acres, reported Thursday that about half the money needed to pay for the 1,768 trout stocked in the pond has been raised to date. He estimated that at least 900 of these trout haven't yet been caught.

He said persons who wish to help may purchase a membership in the Friends organization for $10. A picnic for members is scheduled Aug. 15 at 4 at Wild Acres and will conclude at 6:30 with a drawing for prizes.

JUN 18 1983

JUN 9 1983

Hebert announces rules for kids' fishing derbies

Vincent J. Hebert, superintendent of parks and recreation, announced today the rules for the children's fishing derbies Saturday and Sunday from 7 to 7 at Wild Acres.

Boys and girls 6 to 14 years of age are eligible to fish at no charge. However, they must register on arrival and again when leaving.

Only one pole or rod is permitted per child, and each must catch and keep his or her own fish. Adults are allowed to cast but the child must hook and pull in the fish.

The bag limit is five trout per angler. Prizes will be given to the first three boys and first three girls catching tagged trout.

There will be a derby Tuesday from 7 to 7 for senior citizens (state fishing license required), and on Wednesday, 9 to 7, for handicapped persons.

The derbies are sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, Pittsfield Conservation Commission, Pittsfield Pond Fish Committee, and the newly organized Friends of Wild Acres, which is raising funds through the sale of memberships at $10 each to underwrite expenses.

The membership fee is a donation and doesn't entitle the card-holder to fishing privileges at Wild Acres.

Nature area available despite locked gates

The gates at Wild Acres are locked except when the picnic pavilion is rented for group outings, but people are welcome to park their cars at the entrance and walk into the nature area, Director of Community Services Vincent J. Hebert said yesterday.

Hebert said the gates are locked because he lacks money in the park budget to pay park police officers to patrol the area.

AUG 1 1983

AUG*12*1983

SHORT CASTS: It's not too late to join the Friends of Wild Acres (membership fee $10) and to participate in the picnic, brief meeting to vote on proposed bylaws and drawing for prizes Monday, 4 p.m. until dark, at Wild Acres. More memberships must be sold if this volunteer organization is to continue to be viable and to sponsor the popular fishing derbies for children, senior citizens and handicapped persons. To obtain a membership and further information call Bernie Goclowski, 287 Holmes Road, 442-9570.



Rosemary Shugrue | Kellie Moulen | Debra Melle | Paige Beaudin | Tannia Bolton | Michele Grady | Sandra Brooks | Stacy Hansen

Photos by Shartrand
Susan Carmel

Carnival queen contest to begin tonight

Tonight will kick off the start of the annual Winter Carnival queen contest, according to contest chairman, Miss Pamela M. Bertoldi.

Nine contestants will begin selling carnival buttons after a dinner at the Stanley Club. All contestants and their mothers will be the guests of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc., sponsors of the contest, which is part of the 38th annual carnival.

A minimum of 1,000 buttons must be sold by each contestant to be eligible to compete for the title of queen or lady-in-waiting. The selection will be made on Feb. 4 at the queen's coronation ball at Itam Lodge. A panel of three judges will make their selection based on poise, appearance, personality, expression and understanding of the Winter Carnival activities.

The sale of buttons is a separate contest and has no bearing on the judging of the queen or lady-in-waiting, Miss Bertoldi says. The contestant who sells the most buttons will be given a special award by the winter sports committee.

Assisting Miss Bertoldi with the contest is Mrs. Craig Mancivalano and Mrs. Carl Peaslee.

The contestants:

Paige M. Beaudin, 18, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard E. Beaudin of 63 Baker St., Lanesboro.

A 1982 graduate of Mount Greylock Regional High School, she is in her first year of business data processing studies at Berkshire Community College. In high school, she was a cheerleader for three years, junior class president and a member of the national Junior Classical League. Miss Beaudin plans to be a computer systems analyst.

Tania E. Bolton, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Bolton of 149 Mill St. A senior at Taconic High School, she is a part-time cashier at the North Street CVS pharmacy. Miss Bolton is captain of the varsity cheerleaders at Taconic High School, member of the pep club, has participated in Senior Citizens activities and special needs program at the Boys' Club.

She plans to major in psychology at college and is being sponsored by CVS pharmacy.

Sandra E. Brooks, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Brooks, 834 West Housatonic St. A senior at Taconic High School, she is employed part time at the Inn Cinema and also baby-sits.

Miss Brooks is a member of the pep club at Taconic, works with handicapped children and Special Olympics, the dance rollerskating club, was on the 9th and 10th grade soccer teams, is a candy striper and did baby-sitting for United Cerebral Palsy Association.

She would like to be a physical therapist. Miss Brooks is being sponsored by the Pittsfield Fire Department.

Susan M. Carmel, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford F. Carmel of 571 West Housatonic St.

A Taconic High School senior, she is employed part time by the West Housatonic Street Friendly.

She was a member of the Pittsfield Figure Skating Club for seven years and has ushered for the Berkshire Public Theater. A lector at Notre Dame Church, she is also a member of its youth group and a teacher's aide for Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Miss Carmel, sponsored by the Corvettes of Berkshires, plans to attend college and study law.

Michele M. Grady, 18, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton E. Grady Jr. of 18 Myrtle St.

A senior at Pittsfield High School, she is employed part time on the cleaning staff of the First Agricultural Bank and also baby-sits.

Miss Grady is a volunteer at the Catholic Youth Center, where she is a member of its service society. At Pittsfield High School, she is a member of the Cadettes, pep club and treasurer of the service society.

She would like to become a nurse and is being sponsored by the Linoleum Store.

Stacy Hansen, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hansen of 3 Acorn St.

She is a senior at Taconic High School and a part time cashier at the West Housatonic Street McDonalds.

Miss Hansen would like to become an airline stewardess. She is being sponsored by McDonalds.

Debra J. Melle, 20, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Melle of 68 Gale Ave.

A 1980 graduate of Taconic High School, she is employed in the deposit savings department of the Berkshire County Savings Bank.

While in high school, she was captain of the girls field hockey team. Miss Melle is being sponsored by the Berkshire County Savings Bank.

Kellie A. Moulen, 17, is the daughter of Mrs. Jacqueline Moulen of 46 Euclid Ave. and Alfred Moulen of East Main Street, Cheshire.

She is a senior at Taconic High School. Miss Moulen, sponsored by The Gathering, is employed there on weekends and sells Avon products. She has worked with special needs children and is vice president of the senior class at Taconic High School. Miss Moulen would like to work with children as a social worker or child psychologist.

Rosemary Shugrue, 19, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shugrue of Rogers Avenue, West Springfield.

A 1981 Taconic High School graduate, she is a business career student at Berkshire Community College and a part-time clerk at Century House.

She has been a member of the American Red Cross youth group, secretary of the student senate during her junior and senior years at Taconic High, where she was on the dance committee, cheerleader for three years and assisted with the Special Olympics. She would like to continue her education at the University of Massachusetts.

Golf on ice tournament set for Sunday

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. will sponsor a golf on ice tournament Sunday on Pontoosuc Lake as part of the 38th annual Winter Carnival.

The 18-hole course will be set up north of the Sons of Italy Itam Lodge. Chairman of the event, which will run from 1 to 3:30 p.m., is Herbert "Spike" Jones.

Golf balls will be furnished and prizes awarded. Golfers may register at the course on Sunday for a $1 fee.

JAN 12 1983

Winter sports board to discuss carnival

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will meet this evening at 7:30 at Springside House, Chairman Fred P. Garner Sr. has announced.

Events planned for this weekend's Winter Carnival will be discussed, including the Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships on Saturday and Sunday, and the ice-fishing derby and golf on ice tournament scheduled for Sunday, all at Pontoosuc Lake.

The committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday during the month of January. Meetings are open to the public.

JAN 12 1983

Winter Carnival Queen contest is launched

Pittsfield's Winter Carnival queen contestants attended a dinner to open the sale of carnival buttons Friday at the Stanley Club. The queen will be crowned at the annual Winter Carnival ball on Feb. 4 at Itam Lodge.



Susan Plageman

JAN 13 1983

Ice golf to go on, but fishing's off

The ice-fishing derby originally scheduled for Sunday at Pontoosuc Lake has been canceled, according to Vincent J. Hebert, superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

However, another lake event, also part of this weekend's Winter Carnival, will take place as scheduled. Hebert said the golf-on-ice tournament will proceed Sunday as planned because it will take place in an area of the lake where the ice measures 5 or 6 inches in thickness.

The ice fishing would have been all over the lake, where in some places the ice is extremely thin or there is open water, Hebert said.

Speed skating races slated this weekend

—Page 25

Friday, Jan. 14, 1983

Area sports

City hosts speed skating this weekend

SPEED SKATING: The Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships are scheduled for tomorrow and Sunday on Pontoosuc Lake in front of the Sons of Italy Itam Lodge. Starting times will be 1 tomorrow and 11 Sunday.

The event, sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee as part of its 38th annual Winter Carnival, is expected to draw about 100 skaters from throughout the Northeast.

JAN 14 1983

Winter Carnival changes schedule

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee, which has been forced to postpone several Winter Carnival events because of unseasonably warm weather and the lack of snow, has issued a new schedule to clarify matters.

The Berkshire Hills Speed Skating Championships will take place tomorrow and Sunday as scheduled. Starting times are Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m.

The Golf on Ice Tournament will be held Sunday as planned from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The skating and golf events both will take place on Pontoosuc Lake in front of the Sons of Italy Itam Lodge.

An ice-fishing derby scheduled for Sunday on Pontoosuc Lake has been postponed because there is still some open water in the center of the lake, and the toboggan races planned for Jan. 23 at Osceola Park have been rescheduled for Sunday, Feb. 20.

JAN 14 1983

Weather cooperates for races

JAN 16 1983

PITTSFIELD — Speed skaters from pee wee to masters descended on Pontoosuc Lake Saturday to compete in the 38th annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival's Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships.

Although many teams cancelled because of the storm, the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club team still had a host of New Yorkers and others to do battle against, primarily a contingent from Saratoga who have been a dominant force in the northeast speed skating scene.

Several days of freezing temperatures produced a more-than-sufficient ice cover on Pontoosuc just in time for the annual championships, and despite the blowing snow and an energy-sapping wind chill, good ice conditions prevailed.

The big race of the meet was the 5,000 meter Douglas Memorial, which involved 12.5 laps around the 400-meter oval staked out on the lake. It was won by Bob Christopher of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., with Beth Nowell of Winchester second, Phil Wager of Ballston Lake, N.Y. third, and Richie Wurster of Westerville, Ohio fourth.

Among the race winners was Shauna Clement of Pittsfield who took the 100-meter novice class, and Alex Goguen of Pittsfield in the senior masters 500 for men.

The class championships were all taken, however, by visiting skaters, with Wurster of Ohio and Vince Gagliano of Bronx, N.Y., tying for senior men "A," John Abbruzese of Medford taking senior men "B," Ken Altuchoff of Bronx, N.Y., first in senior men masters, Barney Pimentel of Ballston Spa, N.Y. in junior boys, George Nowell of Winchester in juvenile boys, Justin Brown of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. midget boys, Kyle Brown of Saratoga Springs in pony boys, Maura D'Andrea of Saratoga Springs junior girls, Debbie Nowell of Winchester juvenile girls, and midget, pony and pee wee girls championships going to Lexie Riley, Mary Brophy and Mandy D'Andrea, all of Saratoga Springs.

The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, Jan. 17, 1983—35

owstorm meet shortened by sno

Competing in the juvenile girls' class, Heather Vilot was third in the 300, 500, 800 and 1,000 races. Missy Vilot earned a third-place finish in the 300-meter peewee girls' event and placed fourth in both the 100 and 250. David Vilot was fourth in three midget boys' races — the 300, 500 and 600.

The races were part of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

Ski race Sunday

Carnival sports action will continue next Sunday, with the running of the Winter Sports Committee's cross country ski championships, beginning at 1 at Springside Park. The course for that event will be a short loop behind Reid Middle School.

Registration forms are available at the Park Department offices at 874 North St. Registration also may be made the day of the race.

The featured race of the day was the Exchange Club's Francis E. Douglas Memorial Race, a 5,000-meter event that was won by Duke Christopher of Saratoga. Beth Nowell, 15, of Winchester, who finished second, was the first female to ever compete in the Douglas event.

Other top performers for the Pittsfield club included Marka Mendonsa, who was second to eventual class winner Lexie Riley in three races — the 400, 500 and 600 — in the midget girls' category. Alycia Sacco of Pittsfield also competed in the midget girls' division, placing third in the 300 meters and fourth in the 400.

Richard Rouse of Pittsfield was fourth in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter races in the pony boys' category, while Marisa Mendonsa collected a third-place finish in the 250-meter peewee girls' competition.

Other top Berkshire County finishes all came from the Vilot family of Lee.

Speed-skating

Alex Goguen of Pittsfield won the 500-meter race in the senior men's masters division Saturday in the somewhat abbreviated Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed-Skating Championships held on Pontoosuc Lake.

The weekend storm kept many of the skaters from the Boston and New York areas from traveling to the Berkshires and, because of the resulting small field and a weather forecast for more snow yesterday, race officials decided to hold all the events on Saturday instead running the event for two days, as had been originally planned. The skaters who did compete enjoyed good ice conditions on the course set up near the Itam Lodge.

Goguen beat out Steve Riley of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., to win the 500-meter masters event. He also placed fourth in the senior men's masters 300-meter competition and was third in the 1,500-meter event.

Goguen's triumph was one of two first-place finishes earned by members of the Pittsfield Parks Speed-Skating Club. The club's other victory came in the 100-meter race in the novice girls' category, in which Shauna Clement defeated Marie Mendonsa. Both girls are from Pittsfield.

Saratoga skaters shine

Skaters from Saratgoa Springs dominated the meet, walking off with six of the 12 class championships. Those winners were Justin Brown, Maura D'Andrea, junior girls; Kyle Brown, pony boys; Brophy, pony girls, and Mandy D'Andrea, peewee girls.

Other division winners included John Abbruzese of Medford, who won the men's senior B division; Ken Altuchoff of New York City, senior men's masters; Barney Pimentel of Ballston Spa, N.Y., junior boys; George Nowell of Winchester, juvenile boys, and his sister, Debbie Nowell, juvenile girls.

The senior men's A division title was shared by Vince Gagliano of New York and Richie Wurster of Westerville, Ohio. Wurster was a member of the U.S. Olympic team in 1968.



Photo by David Vallette

Leading the pack at the 38th annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival speed skating championships Saturday is Lloyd Clark of Loudonville, N.Y., at left, the eventual winner of the 1,000-meter event at Pontoosuc Lake.



Photo by David Vallette

Members of the Vilot family of Lee cheer their favorites during speed skating races at Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield on Saturday. From left, Melissa, 7, David, 12, and Heather, 13, competitors as well as cheerleaders. Their father Thomas, at right, is the family coach, trainer and manager.



Photo by David Vallette

Michelle Tabot of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., watches some of the 100 contestants in the speed skating championships. The event was cut from two days to just Saturday, because of the storm.

Thanks Mother Nature



Photo by David Vallette

These officials of the 38th annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival speed skating championship are keeping warm inside the Sons of Italy Itam Lodge on Pontoosuc Lake while the competition goes on outside. From left are: Patricia A. Peaslee, the longtime chairman, and her assistants Mary T. Smith, Fred P. Garner and John Marchesi, Pittsfield Parks and Recreation supervisor.



Mark Mitchell

GOLF drew 19 competitors, including three women, to Pontoosuc Lake Sunday, where 9-hole course was part of 38th Winter Carnival activities. First place was taken by Keith Dapper of Dalton, second place by Tracy Goodrich of Pittsfield, who is second from right, and third by Jim Creer of Pittsfield, at right.

Winter sports board will meet tonight

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will meet tonight at 7:30 at Springside House to make final plans for the cross-country ski race to be held Sunday at Springside Park.

A new date for the ice fishing derby will be announced, and the remainder of the carnival events will be discussed.

JAN 19 1983

Family Day Entry Blank
38th Annual Winter Carnival

Child's name_____ Phone _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

Event(s) entering: (please check):

Sliding races: Plastic Sleds_____ Double runners_____

BOYS		GIRLS
_____	Ages 6-7	_____
_____	Ages 8-10	_____
_____	Ages 11-12	_____

Skating races:

_____	Ages 6-7	_____
_____	Ages 8-10	_____
_____	Ages 11-12	_____
_____	Ages 13-15	_____

Please enter me in the event(s) checked. In consideration of your accepting this entry I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the City of Pittsfield, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. and owners of property on which the races will be held, their agents, successors, representatives and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me at the said races.

Parents Signature Date

Annual Family Day is set at Clapp Park

The fourth annual Family Day sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee as part of its 38th annual Winter Carnival will be Sunday, Jan. 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Clapp Park.

Weather permitting, sliding and skating races will be held along with free dog-sled rides, sleigh rides and hot air balloon rides. There will be a small bonfire, and hot dogs, cocoa and coffee will be available at a nominal fee. Free balloons will be available to the children. A free hot dog and cocoa will be given to each child participating in the sled and skating races. Winners of these events will receive awards.

Those children participating in the sliding and skating races are asked to check in at the warming house at Clapp Park at 1 p.m. The sled races will begin at 1:30 and the skating races at 2 p.m. The schedule will be set so that those children wishing to enter both events may do so.

Plastic and double runner sleds will be allowed. Age divisions in the sled races will be 6-7, 8-10, and 11-12. Age divisions for the skating events will be 6-7, 8-10, 11-12 and 13-15. Events are open to boys and girls from Pittsfield and adjoining towns.

An entry blank appears in today's Berkshire Eagle above this story and is also available at the Park Department office at 874 North St. and at the Boys' Club and Girls Club. Deadline for entry blanks to be returned to the department office is Friday noon, Jan. 28. Entry blanks will also be available at the Clapp Park warming house the day of the event. However, a parent must accompany the youngster to sign the form, according to event chairman, Thomas J. Angelini.

Busy weekend scheduled for winter sports buffs

This promises to be one of the busiest sports weekends of the winter for Berkshire County fans, with basketball, hockey, wrestling and ski events scheduled today and tomorrow.

All of the high school sports are today, highlighted by the start of the cross country ski season and the wrestling matchup between Monument Mountain and Drury.

In wrestling, Drury (5-1) will attempt to avenge a season-opening 40-16 loss when it visits league leader Monument (6-0). Another match features Mount Everett (3-3) at Taconic (1-4). Both are at 1:30.

The cross country ski season will open this morning at 10, with Pittsfield High hosting Taconic and Mount Greylock at the Pittsfield State Forest, and Simsbury (Conn.) hosting Monument Mountain, Wahconah and Lenox.

The only high school hockey game matches Taconic (5-6 overall, 4-4 in the Hennessy League) against Mount Greylock (5-3) at 7:30 p.m. at Williams College. Greylock won their previous game 4-1 in Pittsfield.

In today's college basketball, the BCC men visit the Franklin Pierce jayvees at 2 p.m., the North Adams State men visit Bridgewater at 7:30, the Berkshire Christian men host Valley Forge at Lenox High at 3:30, the Williams men host Connecticut College at 8, the North Adams State women visit Mount Holyoke at 3:30 and the Williams women host Union at 6.

In college hockey, Williams visits Union for an 8 p.m. game in Schenectady, N.Y., and North Adams State hosts Hamilton at 7:30.

Skiing will be in the spotlight tomorrow, with the citizen's relay cross country race sponsored by the Lenox Chamber of Commerce scheduled at 11 a.m. at Kennedy Park, and the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee's cross country race scheduled at 1 p.m. behind Reid Middle School.

JAN 22 1983

Queen's ball heads named

Mrs. Craig Mancivalano has been named chairman of the annual Winter Carnival queen's coronation ball Feb. 4 at Itam Lodge. Dancing will be from 9 to 1 to music by the Midnight Pass.

Mrs. Lenny Grunin will be assistant chairman of the ball, which will culminate the annual queen's contest sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. Tickets may be obtained at $7 a couple and table reservations made with Mrs. Carl Peaslee at the Park Department, Mrs. Mancivalano, 42 Lakewood Drive, or Mrs. Grunin, 49 Alba Ave. Ten people will be seated at a table.

The 1983 queen and lady-in-waiting will be selected by a panel of three judges prior to the ball. All queen contestants who have sold their quota of 1,000 winter carnival buttons will be eligible for the judging.

JAN 22 1983

Area sports

Ski races are rained out

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING: Cross country ski events scheduled in Pittsfield and Lenox were both postponed yesterday because of the rainy weather and icy ski conditions.

Organizers of both the Pittsfield Winter Carnival race, scheduled at Reid Middle School, and the Lenox citizens' relay race, scheduled at Kennedy Park, said that if proper snow cover arrives, the events will be rescheduled sometime in February.

* * * *

Area sports

JAN 22 1983

Pitsfield Winter Carnival ski events on schedule

WINTER CARNIVAL: Preparations are under way for the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee's cross country ski race tomorrow and the annual City Ski Meet next Saturday.

Contrary to information printed in entry blanks, registration and the issuing of numbers for tomorrow's cross country race will take place behind Reid Middle School, not at Springside House.

Registration will close at 12:30 p.m. and the race will begin at 1 p.m. behind Reid, on a trail marked in green through Springside Park. Robert Zuber is the chairman, and medals and trophies will be awarded by 1982 Winter Carnival lady in waiting Diane Albano.

Roland Blood is chairman of next Saturday's annual City Ski Meet, which begins at 10 a.m. at Osceola Park. The park is on Osceola Street, located off West Housatonic Street opposite the Sheaffer Eaton plant.

The meet is open to all junior skiers from Pittsfield, Dalton, Lenox, Hancock, Lanesboro, Richmond and Washington. Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age group for both boys and girls. The race will be an easy giant slalom, and the combined time for two runs will determine the winners.

A coupon appears on this page, and should be completed and returned to the Parks Department at 874 North Street, or to Blood at 237 Eleanor Road. Entry blanks are also available at the Parks Department and area ski shops.

City Ski Meet
38th Annual Winter Carnival

Child's name_____ Phone _____

Date of birth _____ Age ____ Sex ____

Address _____

BOYS		GIRLS
____	Ages 6-7	____
____	Ages 8-10	____
____	Ages 11-12	____
____	Ages 13-15	____

Please enter me in the event (s) checked. In consideration of your accepting this entry I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the City of Pittsfield, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee, Inc. and owners of property on which the races will be held, their agents, successors, representativs and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me at the said races.

Parents Signature Date

JAN 31 1983



SLEIGH RIDES were one of the activities that survived weather conditions at yesterday's Winter Carnival family day at Clapp Park. Ralph Blakesley of Dalton holds the reins.

Mark Mitchell

JAN 25 1983

Winter sports board will meet tomorrow

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. to discuss rescheduling of the ice fishing derby and cross country ski races, two Winter Carnival events that were postponed recently.

In addition, final plans will be made for the city ski meet, slated for Saturday at Osceola Park, and for Family Day, which will be Sunday at Clapp Park, the committee announced.

The meeting will be held at Springside House, 874 North St.

Further information about Winter Carnival events, which are open to residents of Pittsfield and adjoining towns, may be obtained by calling the Pittsfield Department of Parks and Recreation.

Weather reduces family day activities

Uncooperative weather yesterday afternoon scratched the sliding and skating races traditionally held during Family Day at Clapp Park, an annual Winter Carnival event sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation..

"There was no ice [of racing quality] and the snow came too late," said Patricia Peaslee of the Parks Department.

But there was enough snow for the traditional sleigh rides. Ralph Blakesley of Dalton carried 20 to 25 youngsters at a clip around the Little League field in his horse-drawn sleigh.

And the most exciting Family Day feature, the hot-air balloon, does not need ice or snow. Children lined up for the chance to fly to the end of the tether that held the rainbow-striped balloon from Star Balloons of Chatham, N.Y., until rising winds forced a stop.

Free hot dogs and hot chocolate and balloons — the regulation-size helium type — were handed out to the approximately 150 children who turned out. "We had a good crowd," Mrs. Peaslee said.

The event, which ran from 1 to 3, was chaired by Thomas Angelini.

10 Years Ago

A total of 166 contestants turned out at Pontoosuc Lake for the Pittsfield Winter Carnival's ice-fishing derby. Tommy Pizzuto Jr. won the prize for catching the most fish in the boy's division and the derby. Joan German had the most in the girls' division, Robert Halsey in the men's and Mrs. Shirley Thomas in the women's.

William Wooldridge was named president of the Berkshire Hills Country Club operating corporation, according to Silas Eulian, who was starting his 16th term as secretary. Vito Salatino was named vice president.

JAN 28 1983



Mark Mitchell

Just dropping in

JAN 31 1983

A brightly striped balloon hovers above Clapp Park, providing moments of adventure for children attending the annual Winter Carnival Family Day yesterday. Story on page 10.

FEB 1 1983

Winter sports board cancels its meeting

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will not hold its regular meeting tomorrow because of the Winter Carnival Queen Coronation Ball, which will be held Friday night at Itam Lodge.

Committee members are asked instead to meet at the lodge Thursday at 8 to assist with ball decorations.

FEB 3 1983

Angelo Stracuzzi will emcee ball for carnival

Master of ceremonies for this year's Winter Carnival queen's coronation ball will be Angelo C. Stracuzzi. The ball will be tomorrow at the Sons of Italy Itam Lodge from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. with dancing to the music of Midnight Pass.

Vice president of Berkshire Bank & Trust Co., Mr. Stracuzzi, is also the president of the Pittsfield City Council and active in community affairs. He is married and the father of three daughters. The family resides at 40 Grant St.

Tickets are still available from Mrs. Carl Peaslee at the Department of Parks and Recreation office; Mrs. Craig Mancivalano, chairman of the ball, and Mrs. Lenny Grunin. Tickets are $7 a couple. Reservations are suggested and may be made with any of the above mentioned people.

3 events rescheduled in Winter Carnival

Three Winter Carnival events planned for this weekend have fallen victim to the weather and have been rescheduled by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee.

The city ski meet will now be held Saturday, Feb. 12, and the cross country race is planned for Sunday, Feb. 13.

The annual ice trials co-sponsored by the Winter Sports Committee and the Berkshire Motor Sports Club will take place Feb. 19 and 20 on Pontoosuc Lake.

FEB 4 1983

Two ski events are scheduled on weekend

FEB 10 1983

The annual city ski meet and a cross country ski race will be held this weekend as part of the Winter Carnival sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee.

The ski meet, under the direction of Roland Blood, will be Saturday at Osceola Park, beginning at 10 a.m. Entry blanks will be available at the park that day and will be accepted until race time.

Trophies will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place finishers in each age group for both boys and girls. Winners will be determined on the basis of their combined times of two runs on an easy giant slalom course.

The cross country race will be held Sunday at Springside Park. It will begin at 1 behind Reid Middle School. Entries will be accepted at the starting point until 12:30.

Toboggan races slated Sunday

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. will sponsor toboggan races Sunday at Osceola Park from noon to 3:30 p.m. as part of the 38th annual Winter Carnival.

The event is open to Pittsfield residents and those of adjoining towns.

Ronald D. Przedpelski, chairman of the event, said the meet will consist of events for two-, three- and four-person toboggans. Each toboggan will make two runs, and the better of the two times will be recorded. Racers may enter more than one category. Trophies will be awarded to the first three top finishers in each category.

Only wooden U-shaped toboggans will be permitted, and people participating should wear heavily padded clothing.

Entry forms are available at the Park Department office and will be available on Sunday at Osceola Park from 11 to noon. Applicants under 18 years of age must have their parents' signature on the entry blank.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the event chairman at his home.

2/14/83

Winter sports group to review final plans

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at Springside House to review plans for the final events in the 38th annual Winter Carnival.

Scheduled for this weekend are the ice trials on Pontoosuc Lake cosponsored by the Berkshire Motor Sports Club Saturday and Sunday, toboggan races at Osceola Park on Sunday, and the Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating Championships, also on Sunday, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Rink in North Adams.

FEB 15 1983

Toboggan races slated Sunday

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Additional information may be obtained by contacting the event chairman at his home.

FEB 16 1983

SPEED SKATING: The Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating Championships, sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee, are scheduled for Sunday beginning at noon at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink in North Adams.

Admission for spectators is free. Entries have been received from throughout the Northeast and Ohio, and there is a possibility the 1982-83 national indoor speed skating team will participate, according to chairman Carl E. Peaslee of Pittsfield. The U.S. team is scheduled to arrive at Lake Placid, N.Y., tomorrow and Saturday, and efforts are being made to have members get to North Adams Sunday.

FEB 17 1983

Osceola ski tow to close for races

The ski tow at Osceola Park will be closed until 3 Sunday to accommodate the toboggan races, part of the 38th annual Winter Carnival.

The toboggan races will begin at 1.

FEB 19 1983

SPEED SKATING: Ten members of the Pittsfield Speed Skating Club are scheduled to compete in the Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating Championships scheduled tomorrow beginning at noon at the Vietnam Veterans Rink in North Adams.

Local skaters include Heather Vilot in juvenile girls, Marka Mendonsa and Alycia Sacco in midget girls, Marisa Mendonsa and Missey Vilot in pee wee girls, Alex Goguen in masters, David Vilot in midget boys, Richard Rouse in pony boys and Shauna Clement and Marie Mendonsa in pee wee novice.

The event is sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee as the concluding event of the 38th annual Winter Carnival. Admission is free.

FEB 19 1983



Susan Plageman

ROYAL CAPE is placed around the shoulders of the Winter Carnival queen, Sandra E. Brooks, center, by last year's queen, Linda A. Sullivan of Lenox. At left is last year's lady-in-waiting, Diane J. Albano. Coronation took place last night at the Itam Lodge.

FEB 5 1983

Sandra Brooks is carnival queen

Sandra E. Brooks, of 834 West Housatonic St., was chosen as 1983 Winter Carnival queen at last night's Queen's Coronation Ball at the Itam Lodge.

Crowned by outgoing Queen Linda A. Sullivan of Lenox, the 1983 queen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Brooks and was sponsored by the Pittsfield Fire Department. Her escort was Brian Andrews, and she was attired in a lavendar gown.

Selected as lady-in-waiting was Stacy E. Hansen of 3 Acorn St., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hansen. Miss Hansen was crowned by last year's lady-in-waiting, Diane J. Albano, and was sponsored by McDonald's. She was wearing a light pink gown and was escorted by Joseph Puyia.

Debra J. Melle, of 68 Gale Ave., is this year's top button seller, selling 3,300 Winter Carnival buttons. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Melle and was sponsored by Berkshire County Savings Bank.

Miss Melle received a $100 check from the Winter Sports Committee as her special gift for selling the most buttons.

A total of 14,867 Winter Carnival buttons were sold by the 9 queen contestants. The profit from the sale of buttons, along with the money raised through the annual Winter Sports Equipment sale defrays the expenses of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival and also assists winter sport competitors and organizations to further their efforts in competition outside the local area.

The queen and her court received gifts donated by local merchants, banks, and the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc., sponsors of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

The panel of three judges, who selected the queen and a lady-in-waiting before last evening's coronation ball, consisted of Mrs. Barbara Rohan of Ware, Ms. Irene McDonald of South Egremont and Guy A. Barg of Great Barrington.

Mrs. Rohan is president of Re-Hab Associates of West Springfield, specializing in physical rehabilitation, sports medicine and corporate fitness.

Ms. McDonald is the director of activities at Berkshire School in Sheffield and in the past has been responsible for many dramatic productions at the school.

Barg is administrator of Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington.

Miss Pamela M. Bertoldi was chairman of the queen contest, and Mrs. Craig Mancivalano was chairman of the ball. Angelo Stracuzzi was master of ceremonies, and music was by Midnight Pass.

55 toboggan teams race in Pittsfield carnival event

There were 55 teams, involving some 80 persons, competing in the Pittsfield Winter Carnival toboggan races yesterday at Osceola Park. Those who had prepared their toboggans with a wax suitable for the soft conditions fared well, according to chairman Ronald Przedpelski.

Fastest time down the course was 17.71 seconds, clocked by the winners in the three-man race. Best time in the two-man race was 18.23 and in the four-man race, 19.78.

The winners:

Two person — First place: Christine Zatorski, 76 Pine Grove Drive, Pittsfield, and Alan Hanson, Route 49, Richmond. Second place: Hanson and Jeanne Zatorski, 76 Pine Grove Drive, Pittsfield. Third place: Scott Woodin, 377 Springside Ave., Pittsfield, and Bud Verge, 179 Allengate Ave., Pittsfield.

Three person — First place: Zatorski, Zatorski and Hanson. Second place: Mark Hamling, 375 Springside Ave., Pittsfield, Woodin and Verge. Third place: Phil Farrar, 86 Hawthorne Ave., Pittsfield, Mike Root, 16 Dexter Ave., Pittsfield, and Charlie Smith, 20 Edgewood Road, Pittsfield.

Four person — First place: Ron Hammond, 30 Beacon St., Pittsfield, Randy Northrup, 124 East Housatonic St., Pittsfield, Pete Thomson, 154 Hancock Road, Pittsfield, and Farrar. Second place: Anne Marie DeMartino, 55 Harryel St., Pittsfield, Melanie Johnson, 131 Benedict Road, Pittsfield, Jim Bowlby, 40 Baldwin Ave., Pittsfield, and Paul Chludzinski, 110 Adelaide Ave., Pittsfield. Third place: Mike Ostrikis, Bill Mack, Russell Gates and Jackie Rossier, all of Key Shelter, 484 West St., Pittsfield.

FEB 21 1983

Stockbridge driver wins Winter Carnival ice trials

Wilson Wright Jr. of Stockbridge turned in the fastest time of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival ice trials, put on Saturday by the Berkshire Motor Sports Club on Pontoosuc Lake.

Driving a Volkswagen Beetle with studded snow tires, he had a time of 1 minute 22.03 seconds.

Other class winners included the event chairman, Clark Nicholls of Pittsfield, winning the front-wheel drive class with a time of 1:35.69 in a Honda Accord, followed by David P. Hathaway of Pittsfield (1:36.26) in a Saab 96, and Nicholls again (1:36.85) in a Volkswagen Rabbit.

The first three finishers in the split drive studded class were: Fred Scott-Smith of Dalton (1:24.68) in a Pinto wagon, Jody Scott-Smith of Dalton (1:28.04) in the same Pinto and Dave Cook of Housatonic in a Mazda RX-2 (1:28.73).

In split drive unstudded class, the first three places went to: Bill Foshay of Buskirk, N.Y. (1:48.63) in a Mazda RX-3, Eric Weiss of Berlin, Conn. (1:49.78), in a diesel Chevy wagon,and Koop Reiner of Copake, N.Y. (1:50.33) in a Chevy Malibu wagon.

Four-wheel drive went to Mickey Finn from Pittsfield (1:33.54) in a Ford Bronco, followed by Keith Martens of Cohoes, N.Y. (1:36.41), in a Plymouth Trailduster and Rich Caropreso of Pittsfield (1:37.05) in a Jeep CJ-5.

Rear engine no studs was taken by Pete Nixon of Pittsfield (1:47.93) in a VW Beetle.

Modified was won by Robert Duzlek (2:04.23) in a Camaro stock car.

The lake conditions deteriorated to such a point that 6 inches of water covered most of the course by the third run, so the event for yesterday was canceled.

FEB 21 1983

25 Years Ago

The Ashley Falls farm of Antonio and Joseph Malnati won the first annual Massachusetts Green Pastures winter contest, County Agent-Manager Frank A. Skogsberg, announced. The winter contest replaced the annual summer event, held for 10 years.

Herbert Zullo of 102 West Union St. caught the most fish, 35 perch, in the annual Winter Carnival derby at Pontoosuc Lake. Mrs. Edward S. Majchrowski of 25 Montgomery Ave. caught the biggest fish of the day — a pickerel weighing 2 pounds, 4 ounces.

FEB 23 1983

Winter Carnival events (finally) draw 65 skiers

A total of 65 skiers finally got their chance to compete in Pittsfield Winter Carnival events during the weekend, with 39 youngsters racing in the 38th annual City Ski Meet at Osceola Park Saturday and 26 people taking part in yesterday's cross country ski meet at Springside Park.

Both had been postponed twice before for lack of proper ski weather. Ironically, Saturday's ski race was delayed 3½ hours because of too much snow, starting at 1:30 p.m. instead of 10 a.m.



Mark Mitchell

KEEPING AN EYE on her equipment and her path, 5-year-old Katie Sullivan won the girls' 11-and-under division of yesterday's Winter Carnival cross country ski race at Springside Park.

In Saturday's meet, 14-year-old B.J. Goclowski of 287 Holmes Road was the pace setter, finishing the two slalom runs in a combined time of 38.36 to win the boys' age 13-and-older division. He also had the fastest time of the day with a run of 18.98.

Among the girls, 15-year-old Cari Chmura of 175 Ann Drive had the fastest combined time of 41.15 to win the age 13-and-older division. The fastest single run, however, belonged to 12-year-old Phyllis Fahey of Dalton, who chalked up a 20.32 while winning the age 11-12 division, just ahead of Chmura's best clocking of 20.34.

The top finishers and their two-run times are as follows:

Age 8-and-under: GIRLS — 1, Tanya Goclowski, 47.41; 2, Andrea Barbalunga, 47.86; 3, Alexandria Pligavko, 51.75. BOYS — 1, Ryan O'Donnell, 41.36; 2, Michael Eastland, 50.96; 3, Michael Pligavko, 53.38.

Age 9-10: GIRLS — 1, Christina Pligavko, 48.01; 2, Laurie Atkinson, 48.67; 3, Abbey Cook, 49.97. BOYS — 1, Andrew Chmura, 43.79; 2, Richard Gangell, 45.23; 3, Gregory Knight, 45.43.

Age 11-12: GIRLS — 1, Phyllis Fahey, 41.21; 2, Christine Jones, 44.23; 3, Holly Gangell, 44.60. BOYS — 1, Jeffrey Hunt, 43.33; 2, Todd Drury, 43.74; 3, Christopher Miceli, 49.92.

Age 13-and-older: GIRLS — 1, Cari Chmura, 41.15; 2, Kirsten Nelson, 44.10; 3, Michele Nolan, 46.60. BOYS — 1, B.J. Goclowski, 38.36; 2, P.J. Fahey, 38.98; 3, Willy Cook, 42.23.

Pittsfield High junior Tod Niedeck and former Mount Greylock High skier Winnie Gutmann of Lanesboro set the pace yesterday, as the Winter Carnival cross country race attracted 16 males and 10 females to the two-mile trail behind Reid Middle School.

Niedeck easily posted the fastest time of the day, winning the boys' age 15-17 division in 11:24, more than a minute faster than the next best, which was Bob Sullivan's winning 12:27 in the men's age 27-and-older division.

Gutmann won the women's age 18-27 division with the fastest female time of the day, a 15:01 that was almost a minute better than Irene Davis' winning 15:51 in the age 15-17 division.

Other male winners were Brian Butler in the 11-and-under (12:35), Chris Trager in the 12-14 (13:45) and Matt Kelly in the 18-27 (16:07). Other female winners were Katie Sullivan in the 11-and-under (18:42), Jessica Ervin in the 12-14 (21:06) and Sharon Parchinski in the 28-and-older (25.31).



Mark Mitchell

FASTEST SKIER among the girls in Saturday's 38th annual City Ski Meet at Osceola Park was 15-year-old Cari Chmura, whose combined two-run time was 41.15.

Forms now available for aid to competitors in winter sports

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee has announced that application forms for financial support are now available for winter sport competitors who have earned the right to participate in district or national competition based on their performances in local competition.

Applicants must be residents of Pittsfield or adjoining towns, attend secondary school, be recommended by a coach or knowledgeable adult and file a request with the Winter Sports Committee's financial support committee by March 18.

Organizations are also eligible to file for assistance. The amount to be paid an organization is based on ability to pay, number of people served and need as determined from a financial statement to be submitted to the committee with the request.

The committee said it intends to contribute toward expenses, not to pay full expenses of competitors or organizations.

Applications may be obtained at the Department of Parks and Recreation office, 874 North St. Additional information may be obtained from members of the financial support committee, Carl Peaslee, Charles Goodrich and Thomas Angelini.

FEB 25 1983

FEB 28 1983
25 Years Ago

Ronald Spring, David Filippi, John Unwin, Corky Soldato, Willis Allard, Peter O'Hara, James Harrison, John Goodwin, Debby Donovan, Holly Dobbins, Catherine Moody and Susan Allard were trophy winners at the Clapp Park sled races, sponsored by the winter sports committee of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

A healthy increase in the North Adams tax rate — as much as $6.50 to $7 on the $60 tax rate — was predicted after the City Council adopted a 1958 budget of $2,976,781.90, up more than $100,000 over the 1957 allotment.

MAR 2 1983

Winter sports board will hold banquet

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. will hold its annual banquet Friday, March 11, at Latshaw's Restaurant, 1381 North St.

Reservations must be made by Friday of this week by contacting one of the banquet chairmen, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Blood and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gaynor, or by calling Patricia A. Peaslee at the Department of Parks and Recreation office.

The cocktail hour will be from 6 to 7, and dinner will be at 7.

104.

Garner elected head of winter sports unit

Fred P. Garner Sr. was re-elected chairman of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. for 1983-84 at the committee's final meeting of the season Wednesday.

Also re-elected were Herbert M. Jones, vice chairman; Patricia A. Peaslee, treasurer and Hope E. Mesnig, secretary. Gail H. Garner was elected historian.

The committee's financial assistance committee has reminded all eligible winter sports competitors and organizations that Friday, March 18, is the deadline for filing applications for financial assistance.

Further information may be obtained from committee members Carl E. Peaslee, Charles Goodrich and Thomas Angelini.

Applications are available at the Department of Parks and Recreation office during regular working hours, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MAR 12 1983

MAR 25 1983

10 Years Ago

City Councilman Robert F. Jakubowicz was awarded a prize for the ugliest costume at the "Old-Fashioned Skating Party" held at the Bordentown/Lenox rink, the final event of the 28th annual Winter Carnival sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

St. Mary's School of Lee defeated Sacred Heart at the Catholic Youth Center 73-47 to win the Berkshire County Catholic Junior High Basketball League championship. Joe Sorrentino of St. Mary's was the game's high scorer with a 24-point performance. Jim DeBonis was high scorer for Sacred Heart with 22.

Maurice C. Corrinet, World War I veteran

Maurice C. Corrinet, 83, of 110 Shore Drive died yesterday afternoon at the Berkshire Medical Center after a short illness.

Born in Pittsfield, the son of John and Maria Curie Corrinet, he was employed for many years by Lindsay Chevrolet as parts manager, retiring in 1972.

He was an active member of the Onota Lake Association and Onota Lake Rowing Association and served many years with the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee. He was a Navy veteran of World War I.

Survivors include his wife, the former Ruth E. Fallon, with whom he celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary last June 4; two sons, Robert P. Corrinet of Pittsfield and John L. Corrinet of Oakland, Calif.; a daughter, Mrs. Mary C. DiNicola of Pittsfield; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

There will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, donations in Mr. Corrinet's memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice or to the Berkshire Medical Center dialysis unit in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Private funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family.

April 26, 1983

Contest opens on Monday for Winter Carnival button

SEP 17 1983

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee has announced that its annual Winter Carnival Button Design contest will begin Monday and run through Friday, October 7.

The winning design will be used as the logo for the 39th annual Winter Carnival brochure and flyers, as well as the Winter Carnival buttons.

The contest is open to children from Pittsfield and adjoining towns. Participants will be divided into groups by grade levels: 1-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

Designs should be drawn on a 9-by-12-inch sheet of paper, using only two colors, one for the background and one for the picture itself. Last year's design had a white background with a black design, resulting in a request that participants avoid that color combination.

Only original figures are acceptable; patented characters, such as Snoopy and ET may not be used. This design should show winter sports activities or the winter carnival events. The picture will be reduced to fit a button approximately 1½ inches in diameter. All designs should have the youth's name, address, phone number, school and grade listed on the back of the design.

All division winners will receive gift certificates, while the overall winner will win a grand prize. Each participant will receive a patch showing him or her in the Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

Entries may be mailed or brought to the Department of Recreation office at 874 North St. or left at the main offices of the Boys' Club, 16 Melville St. or the Girls Club, 165 East St. The deadline for submitting entries is Friday, Oct. 7, at 5 p.m.

Further information may be obtained at the Recreation Department office or in the evening by calling the event chairman, Mrs. Daniel Belair at 18 Cooper Parkway.

Meeting to discuss winter carnival plans

SEP 20 1983

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will hold an organizational meeting to make plans for the 39th annual Winter Carnival tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at Springside House, chairman Fred. P. Garner Sr. has announced.

Garner said anyone interested in assisting in the planning and conduct of the annual Winter Carnival is invited to attend.

Winter carnival dates are set

SEP 26 1983

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. has set dates for the 39th annual Winter Carnival, Committee Chairman Fred P. Garner Sr. announced.

The annual button contest, which is currently underway, will close Friday, Oct. 7; the winter sports equipment sale will be held Nov. 3, 4 and 5; the Queen's Contest will begin Jan. 6 and end Jan. 30; Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships, Jan. 14 and 15; Golf on Ice and Ice Fishing Derby, Jan. 15; Toboggan Race and Cross Country Ski Race, Jan. 22; City Ski Meet, Jan. 28; Family Day, Jan. 29; Queen's Coronation Ball, Feb. 3 and the Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating Championships, Feb. 19.

The committee's next meeting will be Oct. 19, at which time final arrangements will be made for the winter sports equipment sale.

Plans announced for sports sale

OCT 17 1983

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will conduct its annual used winter sports equipment sale in early November at the former Greylock Plastics Building at 125 Peck's Road.

Mrs. Thomas J. Angelini and Mrs. Raymond Tuggey, chairmen, said that items will be accepted for the sale on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 1 and 2, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Thursday, Nov. 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The sale will be Thursday, Nov. 3, from 4 to 9 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 4, from 4 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Winter Sports Committee retains 25 percent of the selling price to help defray the cost of its annual Winter Carnival and to help winter sports athletes compete in state, regional and national competitions. The committee last year also assisted the hockey and ski teams of St. Joseph's High School.

Additional information on the sale may be obtained by calling Mrs. Angelini at 142 Imperial Avenue, Mrs. Tuggey at 23 Eric Drive or the Recreation Department office.

Chairmen set regulations for winter sports sale

10-26-83

Ground rules for people who wish to sell items at the annual winter sports equipment sale next week have been set by the chairmen of the event, Mrs. Thomas Angelini and Mrs. Raymond Tuggey.

Items will be taken in at the former Greylock Plastics Building at 125 Peck's Road next week on Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 to 8 and Thursday from 11 to 2. No items will be accepted after this time.

The sale will begin Thursday, Nov. 3, at 4 and run to 9. Hours for the sale Friday will be 4 to 8 and Saturday 10 to 2.

All types of winter sports equipment in good condition will be accepted for the sale, such as figure, hockey and speed skates, skis, ski poles and ski boots, clothing related to winter sports, sleds and toboggans, snowshoes and cross-country equipment.

The committee will not accept leather ski boots above size 5, lace-up boots, wooden downhill skis or outdated equipment. Small items such as mittens, hats, goggles, underwear and socks also will not be accepted.

The chairmen suggested ways that persons preparing items for the sale can make their items more appealing to buyers. For example:

— All articles should be clean and in good condition. Articles not in good condition or considered too outdated to be sold will be refused.

— Boots and skates should be polished, rust should be removed from skate blades and skates must have laces.

— Articles belonging together should be attached so they cannot be separated or lost. The committee is not responsible for lost items.

— Gouges on ski bottoms should be filled in and rust removed from the edges.

— Ski bindings being sold separately from skis should be mounted securely on a board. Loose bindings and cable bindings will be refused.

Persons selling items receive 75 percent of the selling price of their article and 25 percent goes to help defray the expenses of the events to be conducted as part of the 39th annual Winter Carnival.

Further information may be obtained by calling Mrs. Angelini at 142 Imperial Ave., Mrs. Tuggey at 23 Eric Drive or the Recreation Department office at 874 North St.

Winter sports annual sale raises $13,362

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. raised $13,362 from its annual winter sports equipment sale last Thursday through Saturday, according to the chairmen, Mrs. Thomas Angelini and Mrs. Raymond Tuggey.

Slightly more than 1,100 items were taken in for the sale at the former Greylock Plastics building at 125 Peck's Road. The committee retains 25 percent of the selling price of items to help defray the expense of their Winter Carnival activities and to provide financial assistance to winter sports competitors and organizations.

Checks and unsold items must be picked up at the site tomorrow from noon to 8 and Wednesday from 3 to 6. Those who brought equipment to the sale must present their portion of the sale ticket in order to receive a check or the unsold merchandise.

NOV 7 1983

Winter sports board will meet Wednesday

Final plans for the winter sports equipment sale will be made by the Winter Sport Committee Wednesday at 7:30 at Springside House.

Winners in the 39th Winter Carnival button contest will be chosen, as will the button design, and plans for the Winter Carnival queen contest will be discussed.

The winter sports equipment sale is scheduled for the first week in November.

OCT 25 1983

Parking directions given for sports sale

People planning to sell or purchase items at the annual winter sports equipment sale have been requested by the sponsoring Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. to park on the right side of the Greylock Plastics building in the Ethyl Complex at 125 Peck's Road.

Items to be sold may be brought there today and tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will be held Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m., Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

10-1-81 1P2D

NOV 15 1983

10 Years Ago

Deborah Coon of 26 Cloverdale St. was the winner of the winter-carnival button-design contest. The Crosby Junior High 9th-grader received a $50 savings bond for her design of a face covered snuggly by a ski cap.

NOV 4 1983



Susan Plageman

HEAVY CROWD was present yesterday as the annual winter sports equipment sale of the Winter Sports Committee opened at the former Greylock Plastics building at 125 Peck's Road. The sale continues today from 4 to 8 p.m. and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Winter Carnival contest applications available

NOV 15 1983

Miss Pamela M. Bertoldi again this year will head the Winter Carnival queen's contest sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc., according to Fred P. Garner, committee chairman.

Applications now are available for the contest, open to single women from 17 to 21 who live, attend school or work in Pittsfield or live in adjoining towns. The committee will accept a maximum of 16 contestants.

Contestants must sell a minimum of 1,000 Winter Carnival buttons to be eligible for judging the evening of the queen's coronation ball, Feb. 3 at Itam Lodge.

The contestant who sells the most buttons will receive a special gift. The sale of buttons is a separate contest and has no bearing on the judging of the queen or the lady-in-waiting, according to Miss Bertoldi. The contestant who accumulates the highest score during the judging will become queen, the second highest scorer will become lady-in-waiting. If the highest button seller is selected queen or lady-in-waiting, she also will receive the button seller award.

For the first time this year, the queen contestants will choose a "Miss Congeniality."

Applications, contest rules and regulations and additional information may be obtained from Miss Bertoldi at her 467 Crane Ave. home or by calling the Department of Recreation office. Deadline for filing contest applications is Dec. 9.



Shartrand

Pamela M. Bertoldi

Location is shifted for sports sale pickup

NOV 15 1983

Anyone who did not pick up checks or unsold items from the Winter Sports Equipment Sale, sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc., may now pick them up at the Recreation Department office, Springside House, 874 North St.

All checks and items must be picked up between office hours of 9 to 5 and must be picked up before 5 on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Thursday, Dec. 1, 1983



Susan Plageman

WINNING DESIGN in the annual Winter Carnival button design contest is displayed by its creator, William Quadrozzi, who is a 6th grader at Notre Dame Middle School. The boy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Quadrozzi of 133 High St.

10—The Berkshire Eagle, Tu



Winning design

Carnival button to feature design of William Quadrozzi

William Quadrozzi, a 6th grade student at Notre Dame Middle

dale, N.Y., will be on display at the Berkshire Museum Nov. 5 through Dec. 4.

The exhibit includes about 70 photographs taken during Gardner's travels across the country, travels which he now undertakes as pilot of a 1947 Cessna 195.

The Albany, N.Y., native has had his photographs published in numerous books and magazines, including the new edition of "Documentary Photography," part of Time-Life Publications' series on photography. A limited edition monograph devoted to Gardner's work, "America Illustrated: Photographs 1960-1980," was published in 1982 by Tackfield, Ltd. The book contains reproductions of many of the photographs on exhibition at the Berkshire Mu-

Winter sports board will meet Wednesday

NOV 28 1983

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will hear a final report on the recent winter sports equipment sale at a meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Springside House.

Plans for the Winter Carnival queen contest will be discussed. Mrs. Daniel Belair, chairman of the button design contest, and Miss Sandra Brooks, 1983 Winter Carnival queen, will present awards to the winners of the button design contest.

Winter sports board will meet Wednesday

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will discuss the Winter Carnival Queen Contest at a meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Springside House.

Chairman Fred P. Garner Sr. said plans for other winter carnival activities that will begin after the first of the year will also be considered. He said anyone interested in assisting with carnival activities is invited to attend.

JAN 12 1983

JAN 18 1983

Ski tow opens at Osceola Park

The children's ski tow at Osceola Park is now open for the season.

The rope tow will be in operation on weekdays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 1 to 5 and 6:30 to 9.

JAN 19 1983



Joel Librizzi

TRUCK from Park Department scrapes away snow in preparation for spraying water and creating an ice rink for youngsters on the First Street Common.

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1983



Joel Librizzi

A grand day for sledding

Sunlight, mild temperatures and plenty of snow drew one of the largest crowds in years to a sliding fest at Clapp Park yesterday.



FEB 15 1983

Joel Librizzi

HOCKEY GAME draws youngsters to the ice at the Common in Pittsfield.

May 18, 1983

Carl E. Peaslee will head Notre Dame family festival

Carl E. Peaslee of 116 Shore Drive will head Notre Dame parish's annual family festival on July 30 and 31, the Rev. Leo Leclerc, pastor, announced today. Mr. Peaslee, who has participated in many Park Department events, said that the festival this year would have more of a French accent and will include live entertainment under a tent.

A French wine-tasting session is planned, and prizes will be awarded. French food will be offered in the restaurant, and french fries in the snack booth.

Entertainment will consist of magic acts, puppet shows, a rock group and Larry Gilbert's banjo band.

Games for the young and games of skill for adults will be offered.

Handmade articles will be featured in the church hall, and a "giant tag sale" will be on the church lawn. Ms. Mary Goodrich, sale chairman, is seeking donations of salable articles.

Grand drawings will be held at the close of the bazaar at 9 p.m. on July 31.



Carl E. Peaslee

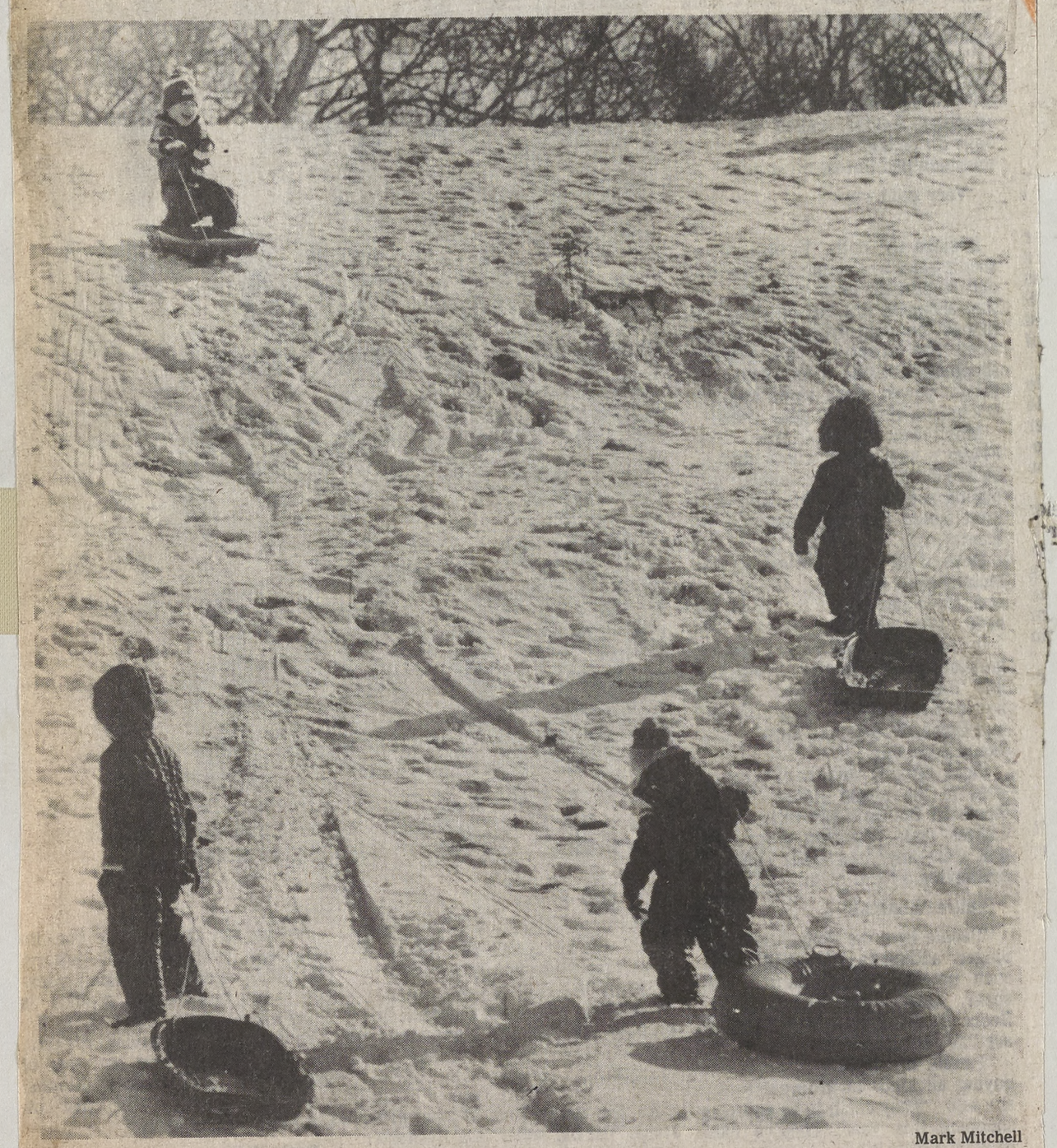


Free Fun

When conditions are right, nothing beats whizzing down the hill at Clapp Park on a sled. You don't need a lift ticket there.

DEC 3 1983

Monday, Nov. 28, 1983



Mark Mitchell

What goes down must climb back up

Friday's snow provided the makings for Saturday's sliding. These tots enjoyed it at Clapp Park.

BRL

Belanger rejoins O's as spring fielding coach

By Bob McDonough

Pittsfield native Mark Belanger, his sparkling 18-year major league baseball playing career officially ended, will rejoin his old Baltimore Orioles team in spring training later this month as an infield coach.

"I'm going to spring training for three or four weeks of infield instruction and general infield work," Belanger confirmed last night when contacted at his home in suburban Baltimore. "I'll be there from the beginning of spring training to the end of March to be in uniform as a coach, and be generally available for instruction of infield techniques to the younger players. I'm kind of looking forward to it."

The temporary coaching stint enables Belanger to rejoin the club with which he had spent 20 years before signing last year with the Los Angeles Dodgers as their backup shortstop.

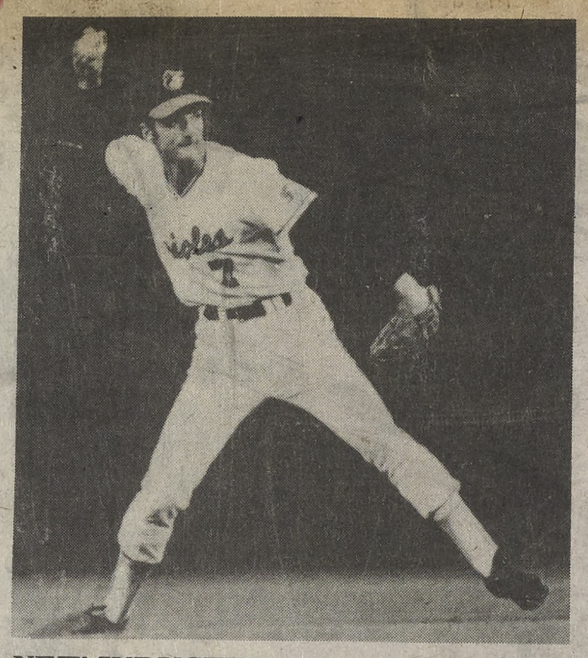
Belanger was released by the Dodgers at the end of last season, and since then had been talking with the New York Yankees.

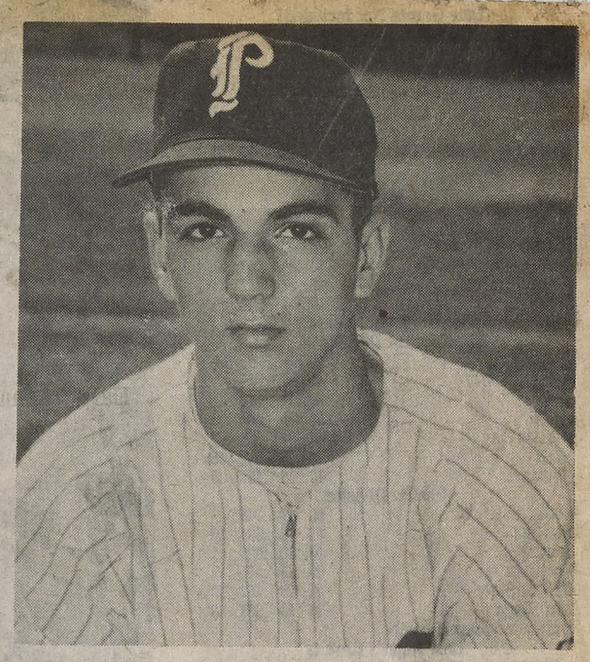
"[The Yankees] called in November, then I heard nothing for three months," Belanger said. "They called back a couple of weeks ago, but they didn't meet what I wanted in terms of the playing situation and finances. Plus New York City in my mind is not one of the best places in the world."

With his Personal Management Associates business in Baltimore and other business opportunities, "I've given up the idea of playing," Belanger said.

"But I'm not sad at all I'm not going to be playing. I'm very fortunate. An All-Star game, eight Gold Gloves, four World Series, six championship series — you can't write a much better book than that."

FEB 17 1983





NEW INDUCTEE in the Baltimore Orioles' Hall of Fame is Pittsfield native Mark Belanger, shown in his Golden Glove fielding form in photo at left, and in his Pittsfield High days at right.

Mark Belanger elected to Oriole Hall of Fame

MAR 25 1983

Mark Belanger, a former Pittsfield High star who went on to win eight Gold Glove awards in 15 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles, has been elected to the Oriole Hall of Fame.

Belanger, along with his former manager Earl Weaver, was elected to the Hall of Fame by a vote of Baltimore area sports writers, broadcasters and the "Oriole Advocates," a Baltimore service organization. To be elected to the Hall, candidates must be named on at least 75 percent of the ballots.

Others nominated, but not elected this year, included such former managers, executives and star players as George Bamberger, Paul Blair, Jim Gentile, Billy Hunter, Stu Miller, Milt Pappas, Paul Richards and Hoyt Wilhelm.

Belanger, elected in his first year on the ballot, enters the Hall of Fame company of other former standouts Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson, Dave McNally, Boog Powell, Gus Triandos, Mike Cuellar and Luis Aparicio. The Hall of Fame was organized in 1977 to honor outstanding players, managers and coaches of the modern era, from 1954 to the present.

A full-size replica of Belanger's locker will be placed alongside the other Hall of Famers' at the "Hit and Run Club" at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium. Belanger and Weaver will be honored in a ceremony at the stadium Saturday, Aug. 20.

Belanger, now 38, spent 19 years in the Baltimore organization before finishing his career last year with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He holds the American League career record (.977) for highest fielding percentage by a shortstop, won six of his eight Gold Glove awards in succession from 1973 to 1978 and led the American League shortstops in fielding percentage three different seasons.

He is second to Brooks Robinson in games played by an Oriole (1,962) and is fourth on the all-time Oriole list in stolen bases (166), runs (670) and hits (1,304).

* * * *

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: The Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League baseball program is looking for people to serve as a league manager, an umpire-in-chief, umpires, coaches and scorekeepers for the coming season.

Anyone interested in helping the league in any of those capacities should attend a league organizational meeting Tuesday night at 7 at the Springside House on upper North Street, or contact league president Jim Hassett at his home on Wellington Avenue.

March 19, 1983

Area sports

APR 23 1983

Perrone joins John Wells as golf pro at Cranwell

GOLF: Dennis Perrone, a former Berkshire Hills Country Club and Pittsfield city golf champion, will join John Wells as co-professional at the Cranwell golf course in Lenox this summer.

Perrone, a 34-year-old Pittsfield native, is a PGA member and was an assistant pro last year at Hunter's Run Country Club in Boynton Beach, Fla. Before that, he served as an assistant pro at courses in Vermont and New Jersey.

"We worked this out last fall," Wells said of the unusual co-pro operation. "Through his years of work at clubs he's worked at, he'll be a real asset here. He's a very capable person."

* * * *

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: The Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League has opened registration for its 1983 season, league president Jim Hassett has announced.

Interested players should fill out the coupon below and return it to the Department of Parks and Recreation, 874 North St., no later than 5 p.m. Thursday.

All candidates will try out at one location this year, and should report to the field behind Reid Middle School at 9:30 a.m. April 30 and May 2-6 at 6 p.m. More than 80 new candidates are being sought for the coming season. Players must be Pittsfield residents, and must be 13 years old before Aug. 1 or 15 years old before the same date to be eligible.

The league's season is scheduled to open May 29.

BABE RUTH TRYOUTS!
Reid Jr. High
Saturday
April 30
and
Monday - Friday
6:00 P.M.

April 28, 1983

BABE RUTH TRYOUTS!
Reid Jr. High
Saturday
April 30
9:30 A.M.
and
Monday - Friday
6:00 P.M.

April 29, 1983

BABE RUTH TRYOUTS!
Reid Jr. High
Saturday
April 30
9:30 A.M.
and
Monday - Friday
6:00 P.M.

APR 30 1983

* * * *

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: The Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth Baseball League, for players aged 16 to 18, has scheduled an organizational meeting for tonight at 7:30 at Springside House, 874 North St.

The Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League is seeking scorekeepers and assistant coaches for the coming season. Anyone interested should contact League Manager Mike Mougin at his home on Taylor Street.

April 27, 1983

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: The Pittsfield age 13-to-15 Babe Ruth Baseball League has scheduled a seminar on the effects of alcohol and drug abuse Monday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Pittsfield Boys' Club. Bob Cote, director of alcoholism services at Hillcrest Hospital, will direct the session. All Babe Ruth coaches and players are invited to attend, according to league President Jim Hassett.

Youth sports are shortchanged

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Last summer I wrote expressing my dismay over the disdainful treatment of youth sports in Pittsfield, i.e., Babe Ruth, Little League, youth soccer, etc., by *The Eagle's* sports department.

I am appalled at the half-hearted gesture made by *The Eagle* in its one-time printing of the sign-up coupon for the Pittsfield Babe Ruth League tryouts. Further efforts by the league were met with refusal to print the coupon. The league was forced to purchase space in the Personals to try to ensure that all the kids and parents have an opportunity to plan for the tryouts.

The sports page of *The Eagle* should first be for local sports at all levels. If it means moving a few ads to another page or putting more pages in, then as a service to those who live, work and spend in Berkshire County, this should be done.

With regard to spending, the sometimes voluminous ads taken out by sporting-goods stores are paid for by the very people shortchanged by *The Eagle.* As each youth league makes its yearly purchase of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment and uniforms from the sporting-goods stores, and the parents shell out $80 for a baseball glove, or $50 for soccer shoes, etc. their dissatisfaction with *The Eagle* should be expressed.

The numerous sponsors of Minor League, Little League, Babe Ruth, Senior Babe Ruth, Paul Brindle League, etc., should re-examine their advertising budgets. If *The Eagle* does not respond to a call for civic pride, community responsibility and even simple benevolence, then maybe the specter of lost revenue will at least set them to thinking.

I hope that *The Eagle* will accept this criticism without retribution to any of the youth activities mentioned above. I take full responsibility for this letter, which was sent without the knowledge or consent of any authorized league official.

DANIEL DeSANTIS
35 Bartlett Ave.
Pittsfield

The writer is a Pittsfield Babe Ruth League coach.

May 9, 1983

City Babe Ruth baseball opens tomorrow

MAY 28 1983

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: The Pittsfield Babe Ruth League is scheduled to open its 1983 season with eight games tomorrow, with double-headers scheduled at Benedict Field, Reid Junior High, Deming Park and Sackett Brook Park. The first games are scheduled for 1 p.m., with the second games scheduled 20 minutes after the completion of the first. In case of rain, all games will be rescheduled for Monday.

The league's annual Jimmy Fund collection will be taken during the opening-day games. Pittsfield has been the leading Babe Ruth League contributor for the past four years, according to league president Jim Hassett.

In the openers, General Electric plays VFW and Oliver Auto Body plays newcomer Mazzer's Variety at Benedict, Gildo's Auto Body plays Arace's and Adams Super Market plays Besse-Clarke at Reid, Union Federal plays Lipton Energy and Mass. Energy plays Sons of Italy at Deming and IUE 255 plays GEAA and the Irish Americans play Hermann Alexander's at Sackett.

* * * *

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: Arace's edged Gildo's Auto Body 7-6 and Adams Super Market polished off Besse-Clarke 8-1 in opening-day games Sunday in the Pittsfield Babe Ruth League 13-to-15-year-old games at Reid Field.

John Salvie struck out eight in a complete game win, and singled home the winning run to lead Arace's. Terry McMahon and Mike Gregory each had two hits for the winners, and Andy Moore, Mike Nykorchuck and losing pitcher Mike Daley had two hits each for Gildo's.

Frank Ott hurled a three hits, had three hits and drove in three runs to lead Adams to its victory. Scott McCann, Paul Ferdyn and Randy Wroblewski had three hits each for Adams. Steve Gniadek took the pitching loss.

MAY 31 1983

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BABE RUTH BASEBALL: Union Federal scored a 10-7 win over Lipton Oil and Mass. Energy downed Sons of Italy 6-2 in National League action at Deming Field.

Winning pitcher Jim Sommerville went the distance for Union Federal, giving up seven hits while recording seven strikeouts. Pat Tierney and Jim Telladira had two hits apiece for Lipton's.

In the second game, Kurt Garivaltis hurled a two-hitter and struck out eight as Mass. Energy defeated Itam in a game called after 5½ innings because of rain. Paul Curry and Sean Griffin each had a pair of hits for the losers.

June 1, 1983

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: Pete Beaudoin pitched a five-hitter as Oliver Auto Body downed Mazzer's in Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League action at Benedict Road field. Jeff Blair took the loss on the mound despite hurling a three-hitter for Mazzer's. Blair and Mazzer's Kirk Gilbert had two hits apiece.

Joe Esposito struck out 11 while tossing a three-hitter and helped his own cause with a pair of RBI as General Electric downed VFW 4-3. Ed Ladley had an RBI double for VFW.

Tony Grandshaw had three hits, John Salvie contributed two hits and stole three bases while Dave Maffuccio tossed a three-hitter, as Arace's downed VFW 11-4, while Brian Traversa and winning pitcher John Salvie delivered back-to-back doubles to help boost Arace's to an 8-5 win over Oliver Auto Body.

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June 6, 1983

Gokey's 4-hitter lifts Oliver

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: In Babe Ruth League age 13-15 action last night, Hermann Alexander's outlasted IUE 255 at Deming Field and Oliver Auto Body knocked off VFW 5-2 at Reid Middle School.

Dave Gokey hurled a four-hitter and struck out 10 to lead Oliver. Barry Moynihan hurled a four-hitter and Ron Munger and Dave Angeli had two hits each for VFW.

Bernie Carroll struck out 11 and Pete Selkowitz had three hits to lead Hermann Alexander's. Jamie DiMassimo, Joe Sondrini, Paul Gilardi and Jeff Quadrozzi had two hits each. Tom Moody had a triple and three RBI and Carroll two hits for IUE.

Monday, Arace's lifted its record to 3-0 with a 3-1 win over Mazzer's Variety at Reid and the Irish Americans topped Union Federal 6-4 at Deming.

Brian Traversa had three hits and Terry McMahon hurled three innings of shutout relief for winner Dave Maffucio to lead Arace's. Brenna Kozlowski, Kirk Gilbert and Steve Kotski had two hits each for Mazzer's.

Tom McKnight got the win and Rob Esposito had two hits for the Irish Americans. Jim Castagna and Brian Holmes had two hits each for Union Federal, and Shaun Risley took the loss.

Sunday, Adams Super Market topped Oliver 5-3 in eight innings at Reid and Hermann Alexander's beat Sons of Italy 6-2 at Deming.

Paul Ferdyn's sacrifice fly scored the winning run and winning pitcher Frank Ott struck out 15 for Adams. Ott and Mike Levardi had two hits each. Dave Gokey had two hits and losing pitcher Pete Beaudin struck out eight in four innings for Oliver.

Tom Moody had three hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs to lead Hermann Alexander's. Mike Lucido got the win, striking out seven. Losing pitcher Frank Algerio, who struck out 13, joined Dave DeCelles and Andy Marziello with two hits each for Sons of Italy.

Last week at Reid, winning pitcher Dave Angeli had four hits, including two triples, to lead VFW to a 13-9 win over Mazzer's. Pete DiTomasso added two hits. Losing pitcher Gary Clemons, Kirk Gilbert and John DiNicola had two hits each for Mazzer's.

At Sacket Brook, Ari Melon and winning pitcher Jeff Furlano had three hits each to lead Hermann Alexander's to a 15-4 win over Union Federal. Paul Culpo took the loss and Bob Esposito, Kevin Jones and Dan Carty had two hits each for Union Federal.

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JUN 8 1983

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Sons of Italy scored three runs in the eighth inning to pull out a 4-1 win over GEAA in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at Sackett Brook Park. Mike Andross was the winning pitcher, while Danny Martin was tagged with the loss.

In other Sackett Brook action, Irish Americans downed Mass. Energy 8-1.

At the Reid Middle School field, Paul LeSage doubled home two runs in the seventh inning to give Adams Super Markets a 6-5 win over Mazzer's Variety. LeSage and Scott Johnson each had a pair of hits for the winners, while winning pitcher Mike Levardi racked up 10 strikeouts. Bill DeSantis and Kirk Gilbert had two hits apiece for Mazzer's.

Mark Martin had three hits and knocked in three runs as Oliver Auto Body rolled to a 15-6 triumph over Besse-Clarke. He was also the winning pitcher. Ken Fry had three hits to lead Besse's.

At Deming Field, Jim Telladira was the winning pitcher and Pat Tierney had a pair of hits as Liption Energy downed IUE Local 255 by a 4-2 count.

JUN 10 1983

Youth baseball

Irish, GE win in BRL

The Irish Americans beat GEAA 11-7 at Deming Field and General Electric topped Mazzer's Variety 6-3 at Reid School in last night's age 13-15 Babe Ruth League baseball games.

Al Hubbard, Jim Castagna and Frank Sewalsky each had two hits and Tom McKnight added a double and two RBI to power the Irish. Greg Smith got the win. Bill Noble had four hits, including a double, triple and three RBI, and Mike Daury had two hits for GEAA. Rick Paris struck out six in a losing effort.

Chris Shepard drove in two runs with two hits, and winning pitcher Marty Streit added a run-scoring triple to lift GE past Mazzer's. Jeff Astore picked up a save. Losing pitcher Jeff Blair had three hits.

Thursday at Deming, Jim Clark had three hits and Mark Blanchard drove in three runs with a triple and single to lead GEAA to a 12-9 win over Union Federal. Scott Jones had two hits and Dan Martin an RBI double for the winners, as Jon Carmon got the victory. Rob Esposito drove in two runs with a homer and a double, and Kevin Jones had two hits and two RBI for Union Federal. Jim Somerville took the loss.

June 11, 1983

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: Shaun Griffin pitched a four-hitter and struck out 12 in hurling Mass. Energy to a 6-2 win over GEAA in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at Deming Field.

B.J. Goclowski had three hits to lead Mass. Energy, while Mike Daury had two of the four hits for GEAA.

In other action, Chris Smith bested Gary Bresnahan in a sizzling pitchers' duel as Irish Americans edged IUE Local 255 1-0 in eight innings. Smith gave up three hits and struck out 14 in picking up the win. Bresnahan hurled a two-hitter and fanned 15 despite taking the loss.

JUN 4 1983

Youth baseball roundup

JUN 14 1983

Streit sparks GE to 13-12 victory

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Marty Streit ripped a three-run homer and a single to spur General Electric to a 13-12 over Union Federal Savings in a Babe Ruth League game at Deming Field.

Jeff Russell backed up winning pitcher Mark Taglieri with three hits. Rob Esposito had a single and triple and two RBI, and Shaun Risley doubled in three runs to pace Union Federal. Mike Mazzeo took the pitching loss.

In other league games, the Sons of Italy defeated the Irish Americans 11-3 and Union Federal Savings 14-8, Lipton Energy edged Hermann Alexander's 14-13, Oliver Auto Body tripped Gildo's Auto Body 11-6 and GEAA downed Arace's 8-6.

An eight-run eruption in the third inning carried the Sons of Italy to their triumph over the Irish. Frank Algerio pitched the victory, while Tom Kushi took the loss. Dave Decelles picked up the pitching victory in the Italians' win over Union Federal.

Rob Ferris socked a single, double and triple and drove in three runs as Lipton Energy prevailed over Alexander's. Rick Koch added two singles and a triple for the winners, while John McCloskey and Tom Moody led the losers with three hits each.

Winning pitcher Cliff Newton and loser Mike Lucido each struck out eight batters.

Oliver Auto exploded for six runs in the seventh inning to beat Gildo's Auto. Miles Robinson drove in three runs with a two hits, one a triple, and Dave Gokey added two hits in support of winning pitcher Pete Beaudoin. Andrew Moore led Gildo's with three hits, and Pooey Heidel took the loss.

A six-run first inning vaulted GEAA over Arace's, as Keith Dupont and Scott Jones each banged out two hits for the winners. John Carmen picked up the win with Bill Noble assisting in relief. Brian Traversa slammed two hits, one a homer, for Arace's. Dave Maffucio absorbed the pitching loss.

At Sackett Brook Park, Mass. Energy used a six-run fifth inning to get past Hermann Alexander's 12-8, and Lipton defeated Mass. Energy 5-2. Winning pitchers were B.J. Goclowski for Mass. Energy and Shaun Kirchner for Lipton.

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Peter Selkowitz was the winning pitcher and banged out two singles, a double and a triple to spark IUE to a 19-8 win over Mass. Energy in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at Sackett Brook Park. Gary Bresnahan had two singles and a double for the losers.

June 15, 1983

Youth baseball roundup

JUN 16 1983

Besse's wins with 6-run first

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Besse-Clarke erupted for six runs in the first inning last night and went on to score an 8-5 win over Hermann Alexander's in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at Reid School field.

Winning pitcher Mike Chapman, Todd Dextradeur and Dave Tynan had two hits apiece to pace the Besse-Clarke attack, while losing pitcher Bernie Carroll had two hits and two RBI for Alexander's.

In other action, Jeff Blair knocked in three runs with a pair of hits and Brennan Kozlowski had three singles as Mazzer's downed Mass. Energy 12-9. Gary Clemons was the winning pitcher, while Pat Codey and Shaun Griffin had two hits each for the losers.

At Deming Field, winning pitcher Frank Ott went the distance and racked up nine strikeouts as Adams Super Markets edged Hermann Alexander's 4-3. Mike Levardi had a single and a double to pace Adams, while Paul Ferdyn had two hits and two RBI. Ari Mellon went the distance on the mound for Alexander's despite taking the loss.

In other Deming Field play, Bill Hines had a double and a single and winning pitcher B.J. Goclowski belted a three-run homer as Mass. Energy posted a 7-3 triumph over Oliver Auto Body. Miles Robinson had two hits and two RBI for Oliver's.

Jim Telladira got credit for the victory as Lipton downed VFW 9-5 at Sackett Brook Park. Ed Ladley had a double and a triple for VFW.

hits to pace Sporting Goods.

In other action, Fahey Beverages battered U.E. Local 212 by a 7-2 count and downed Randall's Trophy Shop 6-4, while Nichols Pharmacy crushed Pittsfield Sporting Goods 25-3.

Eddie Court got on base four times and Mike Riddell rapped two hits to lead Fahey over U.E. Local 212. Steve Lussier doubled and singled, and Mike McHugh stroked two hits for the Locals.

Eric Sweet sparked Fahey's win over Randall's with two hits. David Rucinski banged out a double and Matt Williams ripped a triple for Randall's. David and Paul Lamon each homered and drove in two runs to power Nichols over Pittsfield. Mike Carpenter hit a home run for the losers.

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SENIOR BABE RUTH: The Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth Baseball League, for players aged 16 to 18, has scheduled a registration and tryout for all candidates tomorrow morning at 10 at Wahconah Park.

JUN 17 1983

Youth baseball roundup

JUN 24 1983

Smith K's 10 in Irish win

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Greg Smith struck out 10 in a complete-game pitching effort and Kirk Gilbert contributed two hits and two RBI as Irish Americans downed Mazzer's Variety 14-4 in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at Deming Field.

Tom McKnight had a single and a double and Chris Smith added a pair of singles for Mazzer's.

In other Babe Ruth play, Steve Wieber was the winning pitcher as GEAA edged Mazzer's 5-4, while Jeff Astore picked up the mound win as General Electric topped Irish Americans by a 6-3 count.

Youth baseball

JUN 25 1983

Smith steals home to give Irish victory

BABE RUTH: Greg Smith stole home in the bottom half of the eighth inning to produce the winning run last night as the Irish Americans nipped Oliver Auto Body 10-9 in a Pittsfield 13-to-15 year old Babe Ruth League game at Reid School.

Smith, Tom McKnight and winning pitcher Jim Castagna each had three hits to lead the Irish. Mark Martin drove in five runs with two hits, including a triple, for Oliver. Marcus Gomula, Miles Robinson, Dan Barry and losing pitcher Paul Bowlby also had two hits each for Oliver.

Also at Reid last night, Steve Godinho and Jeff Daury rapped out three hits each to lead a 19-hit attack that carried GEAA to a 24-7 victory over VFW. Steve Wieber, Mark Blanchard, Bill Noble, Scott Jones and winning pitcher Rick Paris had two hits each for GEAA. Ron Munger had three hits and two RBI and Steve White and Kipp Steinman two apiece for VFW, and Barry Moynihan took the loss.

At Deming Field last night, Steve Gniadek struck out 11 to lead Besse-Clarke to a 14-8 win over Sons of Italy. For the winners, Steve Dextradeur had a single, triple and two RBI, Mike Chapman had three hits and Bob Thistle had three hits and two RBI. For Sons of Italy, Mike Andross had a triple, single and two RBI, Darren Lee added two doubles and two RBI and Rob Maloney took the loss.

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Winning pitcher John Salvie helped his own cause with a three-run homer to power Arace Datsun to a 14-11 win over Lipton Energy in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at the Benedict Road field.

Tony Grandshaw had two singles and a double and Brian Traversa knocked in three runs with a single and a triple for the winnners, while John Waitekus had three hits and Cliff Newton contributed a single and a double for Lipton's.

Paul Gilardi was the winning pitcher and Don Schilling had three hits as IUE Local 255 topped General Electric 7-4. Mark Taglieri was the losing pitcher.

Bob Tynan pitched a five-hitter as Besse-Clarke downed Mass. Energy 6-1. Kurt Garivaltis took the loss on the mound despite tossing a three-hitter for Mass. Energy.

Mike Lucido was the winning pitcher and Jeff Furlano delivered a two-run double as Hermann Alexander's topped Mazzer's Variety 6-2. Jeff White had two hits for Mazzer's.

At Deming Field, Chris Smith turned in a complete-game pitching effort and Tom McKnight contributed three hits as Irish Americans downed Arace Datsun 9-1. Smith struck out six in picking up the win. Dave Frechette had two hits for Arace's.

Jon Carmin was the winning pitcher while Steve Wieber and Bill Noble each had a single and a double as GEAA topped General Electric 10-4. Joe Esposito took the loss despite going the distance on the mound for GE.

June 28, 1983

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Dave McNeice had four hits and knocked in a total of six runs to pace Gildo's Auto Body to a 14-2 win over Hermann Alexander's in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at the Reid School field.

Mike Daly contributed two hits to the Gildo's attack, while Andy Moore was the winning pitcher. Jim Kordana had a pair of hits for Alexander's.

McNeice also had a two-hit game — one of the hits being a triple — as Gildo's downed Union Federal by a 16-1 count. Winning pitcher Pooey Heidel helped his own cause with a pair of hits, while Rob Esposito had three hits and Ken Welter two for the Bankers.

In other action, Jim Telladira had two hits and knocked in three runs to lead Lipton Energy to a 12-5 romp over Oliver Auto Body. Winning pitcher Shaun Kirchner also had two hits, while losing hurler Mark Martin had three safeties.

At Deming Field, Gary Bresnahan picked up the win with a complete-game pitching effort and Paul Gilardi cracked a single, a double and a two-run homer to power IUE Local 255 to an 11-2 win over Besse-Clarke. Joe Sondrini added three hits for the winners, while Dave Tynan had a single and a double for Besse's.

Frank Algerio drove in four runs with two homers and a single as Itam outslugged VFW 21-13 at the Benedict Road field. Rob Maloney also had a big night for the winners, pounding out two doubles and three singles, while Dave Angeli belted two home runs and Ed Ladley had a homer and a double for VFW.

June 30, 1983

Babe Ruth tournament

JUL 1 1983

Lee gains '13' final berth; 13-15 event starts tomorrow

The Lee Babe Ruth League's 13-year-old all-star team earned a berth in Monday's Berkshire County finals by scoring a 7-5 win over the Dalton 13-year-old all-stars in the losers' bracket finals last night at Pine Grove Park in Dalton.

The win puts Lee in Monday's finals against South Berkshire at 1 at Memorial Field in Great Barrington. South Berkshire is undefeated going into the finals of the double-elimination tournament, while Lee has one loss. If Lee beats South Berkshire Monday, the two teams would then have to play a second game, which would be played immediately afterward as a doubleheader.

The Berkshire County champion will earn a berth in the Western State 13-year-old Babe Ruth tournament at Westfield. The Western State winner will then move on to regional and potentially national competition.

Ralph Julieno pitched a dive-hitter and banged out a pair of singles to help boost Lee to victory last night. Matt O'Brien also sparked a 10-hit Lee attack with a single and a double.

Bill Nary had a single and a double while Paul Gage delivered a two-run double for Dalton.

The Berkshire County 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League all-star tournament, the first step for Berkshire County teams on the road to a potential birth in the Babe Ruth League World Series, gets underway with a six-game weekend schedule that includes three games tomorrow.

Highlighting tomorrow's opening-round schedule is a head-to-head battle between the Pittsfield Nationals and the Pittsfield American at Deming Field.

The Nationals have won both the Berkshire County title and the Western State Babe Ruth League championship the past three years and have played in the states every year since 1977, hosting the Western State event at Wahconah Park in 1979. The Americans made the states as the host team at Wahconah Park last year, but last won the county crown in 1976. Game time is set for 2 p.m.

Other games tomorrow will find the Adams all-stars meeting the Lee all-stars at 1 o'clock at Lee High, while Dalton will face South Berkshire at Memorial Field in Great Barrington. That game is also set to start at 1.

The South-Central League of Lenox has drawn the first-round bye.

The double-elimination tournament will fire up once again on Sunday, with the Adams-Lee winner playing at the winner of the National-American game while the South Berkshire-Dalton winner will be at home against South-Central. There will also be one Sunday losers' bracket game, with the loser of the Pittsfield game playing at home against the loser of the Adams-Lee contest. Sunday's game are also slated to start at 1 p.m.

After Sunday, the tournament will break until Saturday, July 9, when there will be two losers' bracket games followed by both a winners' and losers' bracket contest Sunday, July 10.

The losers' bracket finals are slated for Tuesday, July 12, with the championship finals set for Saturday, July 16.

The Berkshire County champion will then advance to the Western State tournament beginning July 22 at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. The winner of that tournament will then move on to the New England regionals at Warwick, R.I., with the regional champ earning a berth in the Babe Ruth League World Series in Frederick, Md.

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BABE RUTH: Lipton Energy blasted Union Federal 16-5 and Adams Super Market edged GEAA 4-3 in Babe Ruth League 13-to-15-year-old action last week at Sackett Brook Park.

John Waitekus had four singles and Pat Tierney got the pitching win for Lipton. Kevin Jones had two singles and a double and Mike Mazzeo took the loss for Union Federal.

Mike Levardi had two singles and a double and Frank Ott pitched the win for Adams. Rick Paris took the loss.

JUL 6 1983

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: IUE 255 walloped Union Federal 14-6 at Deming Field and VFW defeated Arace's 8-4 at Reid School in last night's Pittsfield Babe Ruth League 13-to-15-year-old action.

At Deming, Pete Selkowitz drove in three runs with a homer and a double, and Paul Gilardi drove in two more with a double and triple for IUE, as Joe Sondrini got the win. Mike Mazzeo belted a two-run homer and a single, and Rob Esposito took the loss for Union Federal.

At Reid, Mark Sinopoli, Ron Munger, Pete DiTomasso and Dave Rock drove in runs during a five-run sixth inning that lifted VFW to its come-from-behind win. Joe Bishop got the win with three innings of scoreless relief. Mike Gregory had two hits and three RBI, and losing pitcher Terry McMahon added two hits for Arace's.

JUL 7 1983

7-8-83

Babe Ruth tourney slated to resume

The Berkshire County 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth tournament continues this weekend with a pair of games tomorrow and Sunday.

In loser's bracket games tomorrow, the Pittsfield Nationals clash with Lenox in a 2 p.m. start at Deming Field, while South Berkshire tackles Adams at 1 at Renfrew Field in Adams.

On Sunday, two undefeated teams — Dalton and the Pittsfield Americans — square off at 1 at Benedict Road Field. Also at 1, the winner of the Lenox-Nationals contest will meet the winner of the South Berkshire-Adams game.

The winner of the latter game will advance to the Tuesday loser's bracket game, which will also feature the loser of the Dalton-Americans game. The resulting loser's bracket finalist will then play the winner of the Dalton-Americans game July 16 for the championship.

JUL 9 1983

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BABE RUTH: Jeff Astore belted a home run and teammate Chris Shepard rapped two singles to lead General Electric to a 12-10 victory over Gildo's in the 13-15 Babe Ruth League. Mark Taglieri notched the pitching win, while Mike Daley suffered the loss. Gildo's was paced by Rob Gaucher with three hits and two RBI and Mike Daley with two hits and three RBI.

In another 13-15 game, Dave Angeli cracked three hits and drove in two runs and Mark Sinopoli added two hits and two RBI to power VFW to an 11-5 triumph over Mazzer's. Barry Moynihan was the winning pitcher, while Gary Glemons was charged with the loss. Kirk Gilbert blasted a grand slam home run in a losing effort.

Youth baseball roundup

JUL 2 1983

Goclowski hurls BRL 1-hitter

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: B.J. Goclowski hurled a one-hitter and struck out 10 batters to lead Mass Energy to a 5-2 conquest of VFW in a recent Babe Ruth League contest at Deming Field.

Goclowski helped himself with a single and a double to pace Mass Energy. Losing pitcher Dave Angeli punched out a single for VFW's only hit of the game.

In other league games, Oliver Auto Body deflated Union Federal 12-9, the Irish American Club stripped Gildo's Auto Body 9-7, GEAA broke IUE 255 6-4, the Sons of Italy short-circuited General Electric 11-2 and GE zapped VFW 7-4.

Winning pitcher Peter Beaudoin slammed a home run and Mark Martin went 4-for-4 as Oliver's prevailed. Bob Esposito took the loss.

Darren Dehan pasted a triple and a home run to power the Irishmen's demolition of Gildo's. Jim Castagna outpitched Pooey Heidel for the victory.

Keith Dupont paced GEAA with a double and a single, while Joe Sondrini ripped two hits for the losers. John Carmin earned the pitching victory over Paul Gilardi.

Winning pitcher Mike Andross fanned 14 batters and socked three hits as the Italians electrocuted GE. Dave Decelles pounded out three hits, and Joe Gamberoni, Darren Lee and Rob Maloney cracked two each for the winners. Jeff Astore belted two hits — one a triple — for GE, while Marty Streit absorbed the pitching loss.

A six-run fourth inning capped by Streit's bases-loaded double propelled GE past VFW. Ron Munger cracked a pair of doubles for VFW.

Mark Taglieri notched the pitching win over Barry Moynihan.

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American-National contest highlights Ruth tourney

A game between the Pittsfield Nationals and the Pittsfield Americans today helps kick off the 1983 Berkshire County Babe Ruth League 13-to-15-year-old all-star baseball tournament.

The Nationals, who have won the county championship for the past three years, will meet the Americans at 2 p.m. at Deming Field. The game is one of three in the county today, with the Dalton all-stars playing South Berkshire at Great Barrington's Memorial Field and Adams playing Lee at the Lee High field in a pair of 1 p.m. contests.

The South-Central League of Lenox has the first-round bye.

Three more games will be played tomorrow in the double-elimination event, with South-Central playing at the field of the Dalton-South Berkshire winner, the Adams-Lee winner at the Pittsfield game winner's field and the Adams-Lee loser at the home field of the Pittsfield loser. Those three games will start at 1 o'clock.

Further losers' bracket and third-round winners' bracket play will then continue next weekend, leading up to the county finals on July 16.

Also scheduled for this weekend are the finals of the county 13-year-old Babe Ruth all-star event. In that tournament, unbeaten South Berkshire will host Lee at 1 p.m. Monday at Memorial Field in Great Barrington.

South Berkshire needs just one win to nail down its second straight 13-year-old title, while Lee must sweep a double-header to hand South Berkshire two defeats and thus win the crown.

The winner of Monday's finals will then earn a berth in the Western State 13-year-old tournament at Westfield.

JUL 2 1983

B.J. Goclowski hurls 2-hitter in Ruth loop

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: B.J. Goclowski pitched a two-hitter and helped his own cause with two doubles to lead Mass. Energy to a 13-4 win over Union Federal in Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League play Saturday at Deming Field.

Pat Codey also boosted the Mass. Energy attack with two hits, three RBI and two stolen bases.

In other action, Sons of Italy overcame a nine-run first-inning deficit and went on to beat Lipton Energy 14-13. Darren Lee knocked in four runs with a double and two singles, while Mike Andross added three hits and scored three runs. Frank Algerio was the winning pitcher, and Shaun Stannard was tagged with the loss.

Pat Tierney had two hits and scored three runs for Lipton's. The game was called at the end of 5½ innings because of darkness.

Winning pitcher Steve Wieber also got two singles, a triple and three RBI as GEAA downed Hermann Alexander's 16-6. Bill Noble added two singles and two doubles for GEAA, while Dan Martin chipped in with a single and a home run. John McCloskey had a double and three RBI for Alexander's.

July 11, 1983



July 11, 1983

Mark Mitchell

JUMPING FOR JOY after hitting a three-run homer, Dalton's Steve Jameson, right, is greeted by happy teammates as he leaps for the plate during yesterday's Babe Ruth League all-star tournament game at the Benedict Road field. Jameson's homer came amid a nine-run second inning that sparked Dalton to a 13-7 win over the Pittsfield Americans.

Babe Ruth tourney

July 11, 1983

Dalton advances to county finals

By Ray Lamont

Dalton powered its way into the finals while South Berkshire ended the title reign of the Pittsfield Nationals yesterday in the Berkshire County 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League all-star baseball tournament.

At the Benedict Road field, home runs by Sam Herrick and Steve Jameson highlighted a nine-run second inning that carried the Dalton all-stars to a 13-7 win over the Pittsfield Americans. That win, Dalton's third straight in the double-elimination tournament, gives Dalton a berth in Saturday's county finals. Dalton will host either the Americans or South Berkshire in the championship round, with game time set for 1 p.m. at Dalton's Pine Grove Park.

The loss yesterday dropped the Americans into the losers' bracket, where the Pittsfield team will now meet the once-beaten South Berkshire all-stars tomorrow night at 5 at Memorial field in Great Barrington. The winner of that game will then advance to Saturday's finals against Dalton. But the American-South Berkshire winner will have to sweep a double-header from Dalton to win the county crown.

The eventual county champion will gain a berth in the Western State tournament, which will run July 23-28 at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. The Western State winner will then advance to the New England regionals at Warwick, R.I., with the regional titlist then moving on to the Babe Ruth League World Series at Frederick, Md.

South Berkshire advanced through the losers' bracket by beating Adams 4-3 Saturday at Adams and then by eliminating the Pittsfield Nationals by a whopping 17-3 count yesterday at Great Barrington. That loss ended the Nationals' three-year stranglehold on the county championship. The Nationals, in fact, had won three straight Western State titles as well — the only team ever to do so.

The Nationals had advanced through the losers' bracket on Saturday by scoring a 16-9 win over the South-Central League of Lenox at Deming Field.

Dalton 13, Americans 7

Dalton hammered out 14 hits to back Mark Kaley's complete-game pitching effort en route to this rousing win over the Americans.

After a scoreless first inning, Herrick led off the second with a towering solo homer over the fence in left. And before the second inning was over, Tim Wells had added a two-run single, Scott Higuera had knocked in a run with a single to center, and Jameson had delivered a three-run line-drive homer over the fence in right-center. When the dust had cleared, Dalton had come up with nine runs on five hits and five Americans' errors.

The Americans cut the deficit to 9-4 in the third — a three-run inning that included a two-run homer by Ed Ladley — but Kaley struck out three straight hitters to get out of a two-on, no-out jam and Pittsfield never got any closer. Jameson knocked in two more runs with a single in the fifth, and an RBI hit by Chris Duquette capped another two-run splurge in the sixth. The Americans added three unearned runs in the last of the sixth to complete the scoring.

Kaley, who was touched up for 10 hits but walked just three and fanned 11 in gaining the win, helped his own cause with a pair of hits as well, while Wells had three singles and Higuera added a single and a double. Todd Dextradeur had three hits to lead the Americans.

Dalton now has nearly a week off before going for the county crown on Saturday, but coach Howard Eberwein says he's not worried about a layoff. "We're not going to let up now," Eberwein said. "These kids are really intense — they really want it. We know it's not over yet. But we'll be ready. We don't want to lose it now."

Southern advances

In losers' bracket play, South Berkshire erupted for five runs in the first inning and scored nine more times in the fourth en route to yesterday's 17-3 blasting of the defending champion Nationals.

Bob Sluka led the South Berkshire attack with a home run, two doubles and a single, and six RBI while Mike Igoe — the winning pitcher — helped his own cause with a 4-for-5 plate performance.

Sluka's two-run homer and a two-run single by Dave Lanoue highlighted the South Berkshire first, while a three-run double by Sluka and a three-run triple by Mike Coon capped the big Southern fourth.

Saturday, South Berkshire pulled out its win over Adams when Tim Coon raced home on an error to snap a 3-3 tie in the sixth. Igoe had three hits for South Berkshire while Steve Johnston added a pair of singles and Mike Coon was the winning pitcher.

The Nationals had staved off elimination on Saturday by whipping South-Central, largely on the strength of a big 12-run fifth. Pete Selkowicz was the big man for the Nationals in that surge, rapping out a pair of triples that drove in a total of five runs.

Earlier, the Lenox-based South Central club had taken a 6-2 lead with a six-run third that included a three-run double by Pat Winston and a two-run double off the bat of Matt Robinson.

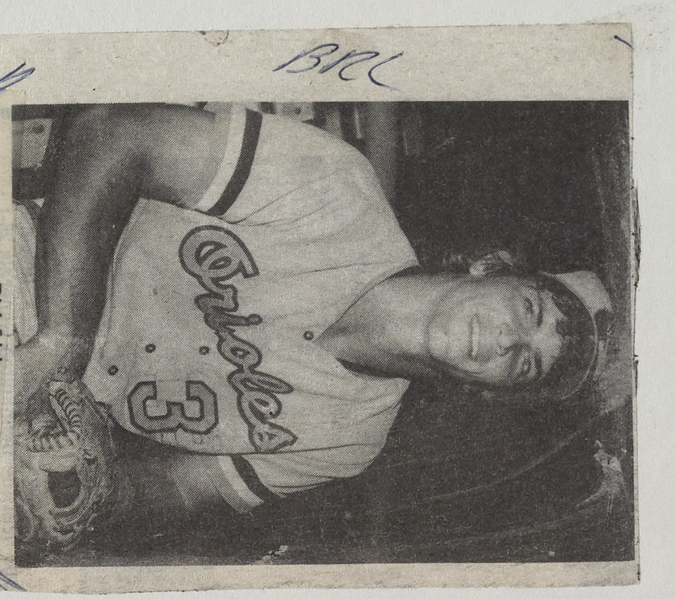
BABE RUTH LEAGUE: In Babe Ruth League 13-to-15-year-old games at Reid School last week, Besse-Clarke edged Arace's 3-1, VFW nipped Adams Super Market 9-7 and Oliver Auto Body got by General Electric 6-4.

Steve Gniadek tossed a five-hitter and struck out seven to lead Besse-Clarke. Todd Dextradeur and Bob Thistle each had two hits and an RBI. John Salvie took the loss.

Dave Angeli and Pete DiTomaso each had two hits and two RBI to lead the offense for VFW. Ron Munger added a triple and single and Joe Bishop and Barry Moynihan combined for the pitching win. Scott Johnson had a two-run double and Mike LeVardi struck out nine in a losing effort for Adams.

Miles Robinson had three hits and Mark Martin added a pair to back the nine-strikeout pitching of Pete Beaudoin in Oliver's win. Mick Melle and Mark Taglieri had two hits each for GE.

July 12, 1983



Rick Lisi
Hitting .302 in Rochester

July 13, 1983

Americans gain berth in finals

Frank Ott turned in a 10-inning complete-game pitching effort and Mike Daley singled in the winning run last night as the Pittsfield Americans scored a dramatic 8-7 win over the Southern Berkshire all-stars to reach the finals of the Berkshire County 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League all-star tournament.

The victory means that the once-beaten Americans will now meet the undefeated Dalton all-stars Saturday at 1 for the county championship at Dalton's Pine Grove Park. In order to take the double-elimination tournament, Dalton needs just one win to eliminate the Americans, while the Americans must sweep a double-header from Dalton.

The county champion will move on to the Western State tournament, slated to begin at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester on July 23.

July 13, 1983

BABE RUTH: Mass Energy walloped Lipton Energy 19-5, the Irish-Americans edged Lipton 4-3 and GEAA beat the Sons of Italy 11-8 in Babe Ruth 13-to-15-year-old games this week at Deming Field.

B.J. Goclowski hurled a five-hitter and belted a three-run homer to lead Mass Energy. Pat Codey added a triple and two singles, Bob Halik a homer and Shaun Griffin a double, triple and two RBI. For Lipton, Pat Tierney homered and John Grey took the loss.

Greg Smith pitched a two-hitter over six innings and added two singles and two RBI to lead the Irish to victory. Tom Kushi had two hits and four stolen bases. Losing pitcher Pat Tierney struck out nine in 5⅓ innings.

Dan Martin struck out 10 and belted a grand slam homer to lead GEAA to its victory. Bill Noble contributed two singles and a double. Losing pitcher Dave DeCelles and Joe Gamberoni each had two hits and an RBI to lead the Sons of Italy.

July 14, 1983

Babe Ruth baseball

Dalton, Americans to meet for county championship

By Ray Lamont

The Dalton all-stars and the Pittsfield Americans meet for the second time in six days tomorrow to decide the Berkshire County 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League all-star baseball championship.

The Americans and Dalton will meet at 2 p.m. at Pine Grove Park in Dalton with the county champion then earning a berth in the Western State Babe Ruth League tournament, which begins July 23 at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester.

Dalton goes into the finals undefeated in the double-elimination county tournament, while the Americans have one loss — a 13-7 setback at the hands of Dalton when the teams met in third-round play last Sunday. Dalton thus needs only to win tomorrow to win the county championship, but the Americans must sweep a double-header to eliminate Dalton and win the county crown. If the Americans win the first game tomorrow, the second game will follow immediately afterward, also at Pine Grove Park.

Tomorrow's finals were originally scheduled to begin at 1 p.m., but have been moved back to 2 at the request of the Pittsfield league, which has regular league games scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Dalton is 3-0 going into the title round, having downed South Berkshire 3-0 and rallied for an 8-6, eight-inning win over the South-Central League of Lenox in the second round before polishing off the Americans Sunday.

The Americans started their county title bid by downing their arch rivals, the Pittsfield Nationals, 8-6 and then beating Adams by a 17-4 count. After losing to Dalton, the Americans then climbed back into the finals by edging South Berkshire 8-7 in 10 innings in the losers' bracket finals Tuesday night.

A county championship will be a relatively new experience for either league tomorrow, since the Pittsfield Nationals had won three straight county crowns and five of the past six.

The Americans played in the Western State tournament last year as the host team when that tournament was played at Wahconah Park, but they have not won a county championship since they took both county and Western State honors in 1976.

Dalton, which lost to the Pittsfield Nationals in last year's county finals, last won a county championship in 1974.

Southern '13s' in states

While Dalton and the Americans will be battling for a berth in the states tomorrow, another Berkshire County Babe Ruth team will already be opening its bid for a Western State crown.

The South Berkshire League 13-year-old all-stars, who swept to their second straight county 13-year-old title July 4, will begin Western State play tomorrow at 5 when they take on the host Westfield 13-year-olds at Municipal Field in Westfield.

The 13-year-old Western State event is a seven-team double-elimination tournament that will run from tomorrow through next Thursday, with all games set for Municipal Field. If South Berkshire wins tomorrow, the Berkshire champs will play a second-round winners' bracket game at 5 p.m. Sunday. If South Berkshire loses, the team will next play a losers' bracket game at 2 p.m. on Monday.

South Berkshire captured the Berkshire County title by winning a four-team double-elimination tournament that also included Lee, Dalton and the South-Central League of Lenox. The Southern stars won three straight games, whipping Lee by a 12-2 score in the finals on July 4.

July 15, 1983

Babe Ruth county finals

Pittsfield, 18-10

First game

Americans	ab	r	h	bi	Dalton	ab	r	h	bi
Dextradr 1b	4	2	2	1	Gllgher cf-p	5	1	1	0
Pensive, 1b	2	0	1	1	Duquette 2b	4	1	1	0
Daley, p	5	1	1	0	Fugman, 2b	0	1	0	0
Ladley, c	4	2	1	2	Kaley, ss	3	2	2	0
Ott, lf	1	2	0	1	Zink, 3b	1	0	0	0
Astore, lf	1	0	0	0	Wells, c	4	3	2	4
Blair, 3b	4	3	2	1	Jameson, lf	4	1	4	3
Traversa, ss	3	1	2	3	Higuera 3b-p	4	1	1	1
Moore, pr	0	1	0	0	Herrick p-1b	2	0	0	0
Chapman, ss	1	1	0	0	Fraser, 1b	0	0	0	0
Gilbert, 2b	4	2	0	0	Welch rf-cf	3	0	0	0
Beaudoin, rf	2	0	0	0	Roche, 1b-rf	3	0	0	0
Angeli, rf	1	2	1	2	McGovern 1b	0	0	0	0
Streit, cf	5	1	3	6	Epstein, 3b	0	0	0	0
Martin, cf	0	0	0	0					
Totals	37	18	13	17	Totals	33	10	11	8
Americans						700	071		3-18
Dalton						303	100		3-10

E—Dalton-6, Americans-2; DP—Dalton-1, Americans-1; LOB—Dalton-11, Americans-9; 2B—Kaley, Wells; HR—Streit, Blair, Ladley; SB—Ott, Blair, Angeli, Higuera.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Daley (W 1-0)	7	11	10	10	9	4
Herrick (L 0-1)	4⅓	6	10	6	7	4
Gallagher	⅔	3	4	4	1	0
Higuera	2	3	4	1	2	2

WP—Daley; T—2 hrs., 35 minutes; PB—Ladley; HBP—Angeli (by Gallagher); Umpires—Joe Marziello, Mark Andrew and Joe Harrison.

Pittsfield, 20-4

Second game

Americans	ab	r	h	bi	Dalton	ab	r	h	bi
Dextradr, lf	4	2	2	1	Gallagher cf	4	0	0	0
Angeli, lf	1	1	1	1	Dquette 2b-c	4	2	1	0
Daley, 1b	6	4	3	3	Kaley, p-ss	2	1	0	0
Ladley, c	3	2	0	0	Fugman, 2b	1	0	0	0
Chapman, 3b	2	1	1	1	Wells, c-p	3	0	1	2
Ott, p	2	2	2	3	Jameson lf-p	3	0	2	2
Astore, p	1	0	0	0	Higuera, 3b	2	0	0	0
Blair, 3b-c	2	2	1	2	Epstein, 3b	1	0	1	0
Traversa, ss	4	1	1	0	Herrick, 1b	2	0	0	0
Beaudn pr-rf	1	0	0	0	Fraser, 1b	1	0	0	0
Moore, 2b-ss	2	0	0	0	Welch, rf	2	0	0	0
Gilbert, 2b	2	1	1	2	McGovern, ss	0	1	0	0
Pensve rf-3b	4	1	1	0	Roche, lf	1	0	0	0
Streit, cf	2	2	1	2	Zink, 2b	0	0	0	0
Martin, cf	2	1	1	0					
Totals	38	20	15	5	Totals	26	4	5	4
Dalton						200	000		2-4
Americans						00	14		141—20

E—Dalton-7, Americans-2; LOB—Americans-9, Dalton-7; 2B—Daley, Blair, Epstein; 3B—Martin; HR—Ott; SB—Ladley, Blair, Gilbert, Streit, Pensive, Daley, Duquette, Kaley.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Ott (W 3-0)	5	3	2	2	3	2
Astore	2	2	2	0	2	3
Kaley (L 2-1)	2⅓	7	10	6	2	3
Jameson	⅓	2	4	0	5	0
Wells	3⅓	7	6	3	2	2

WP—Wells-2, Astore; T—2 hrs., 20 minutes; PB—Duquette; HBP—Welch (by Ott); Umpires—Mark Andrew, Joe Marziello and Joe Harrison.

July 18, 1983

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Winning pitcher Chris Smith went the distance while striking out 11 and Darren Behan and Al Hubbard each had a single and a double as Irish-American downed the Sons of Italy 11-9 in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League at Deming Field. Frank Algerio drove in three runs with a single, double and home run for Itam.

In other Deming Field action, Mass. Energy and Hermann Alexander's battled to a 13-13 tie in a game called after seven innings because of darkness.

John McCloskey had two singles and a triple for Alexander's, while Jeff Furlano had a triple and one single. Bob Halik had three hits and Paul Warren added a single a double for Mass. Energy.

July 19, 1983

Babe Ruth tournaments, July 18, 1983

Americans sweep Dalton to win county title

By Ray Lamont

DALTON — The Pittsfield Americans pounded out 38 runs on 28 hits in two games Saturday to sweep a double-header from the Dalton all-stars and win the Berkshire County 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League championship at Pine Grove Park.

The Americans, who came into the finals with one loss while Dalton was undefeated, force a deciding game with a rousing 18-10 win in the opener and then captured the title by breezing to a 20-4 triumph in the nightcap.

The triumph marks the first time the Americans have won a county championship since 1976 and the first time a team has come out of the losers' bracket to win the championship since the Pittsfield Nationals did it to the Americans in 1978. This is also was the second straight year that Dalton has lost in the county finals.

The double victory means that the Americans will now move on to the Western State Tournament, a seven-team, double-elimination event slated to begin Saturday at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. The Americans will begin their bid for the Western State title with a game Saturday at 2 against the West Side League all-stars of Worcester.

The Americans used the big inning to win the county championship Saturday — in fact, they did most of their scoring in three big innings, striking for two seven-run surges in the first game and an awesome 14-run, third-inning splurge in the second clash.

"We came out here expecting to play two and really expecting to win two," Americans manager Billy Dassat said afterward. "But I never expected anything like this."

Big hitters for the Americans included No. 9 batter Marty Streit, who drove in eight runs on the day and cracked a big three-run homer in the opener, and Frank Ott, who had a single and a three-run homer in the nightcap — a game in which he was also the winning pitcher. Dalton had its moments, as Steve Jameson went 6-for-7 in the twin bill. But most of the day clearly belonged to the Americans.

First game

In the first game, the Americans blew out to a 7-0 lead before Dalton even came to bat, with Streit's homer capping the uprising when his shot over the left-field fence conked a car out on Carson Avenue.

That lead lasted just three innings, as Dalton scored three runs in the first inning and three more in the third, and tied the game when Scott Higuera singled in a run in the last of the fourth.

But the Americans, who had lost to Dalton 13-7 in a third-round game just six days earlier, struck right back for a seven-run fifth, an inning that included a long, leadoff, center-field homer by Jeff Blair and later a two-run shot over the left-field fence off the bat of Ed Ladley. An RBI hit by Marc Pensive then made it 15-7 in the sixth, while a two-run single by Dave Angeli and an RBI hit by Streit wrapped up the Americans' scoring in the seventh.

Second game

In the second game, it was Dalton that started fast, with Jameson's first-inning single giving his team a 2-0 lead.

But that lead — and Dalton's title hopes — evaporated when the Americans sent 19 men to the plate and scored 14 runs in the third. Key hits in that inning included both an RBI double and a run-scoring single by Mike Daley — who was also the first-game winning pitcher — and Ott's towering three-run homer to left-center. That, essentially, was the ballgame.

In the 5½-hour double-header, the Pittsfield team scored at an average clip of seven runs an hour, or 2½ runs per inning, chasing a total of six Dalton pitchers.

"Of course, it's disappointing," Dalton manager Howard Eberwein commented as the curtain began to close on his team's longest day. "It hurts — we lost in the finals last year, too. But these things happen.

I wish them [the Americans] well. They've got a good ballclub. If they get pitching, they should do well — because they sure can hit the ball."

"This is my first year [of all-star coaching], so really I don't know what to expect," said Dassat when asked what he thought of his team's chances in the states. "But I do think we've got a helluva ballclub. If we play anything like we did today, I guess we should have as good a chance as anybody."

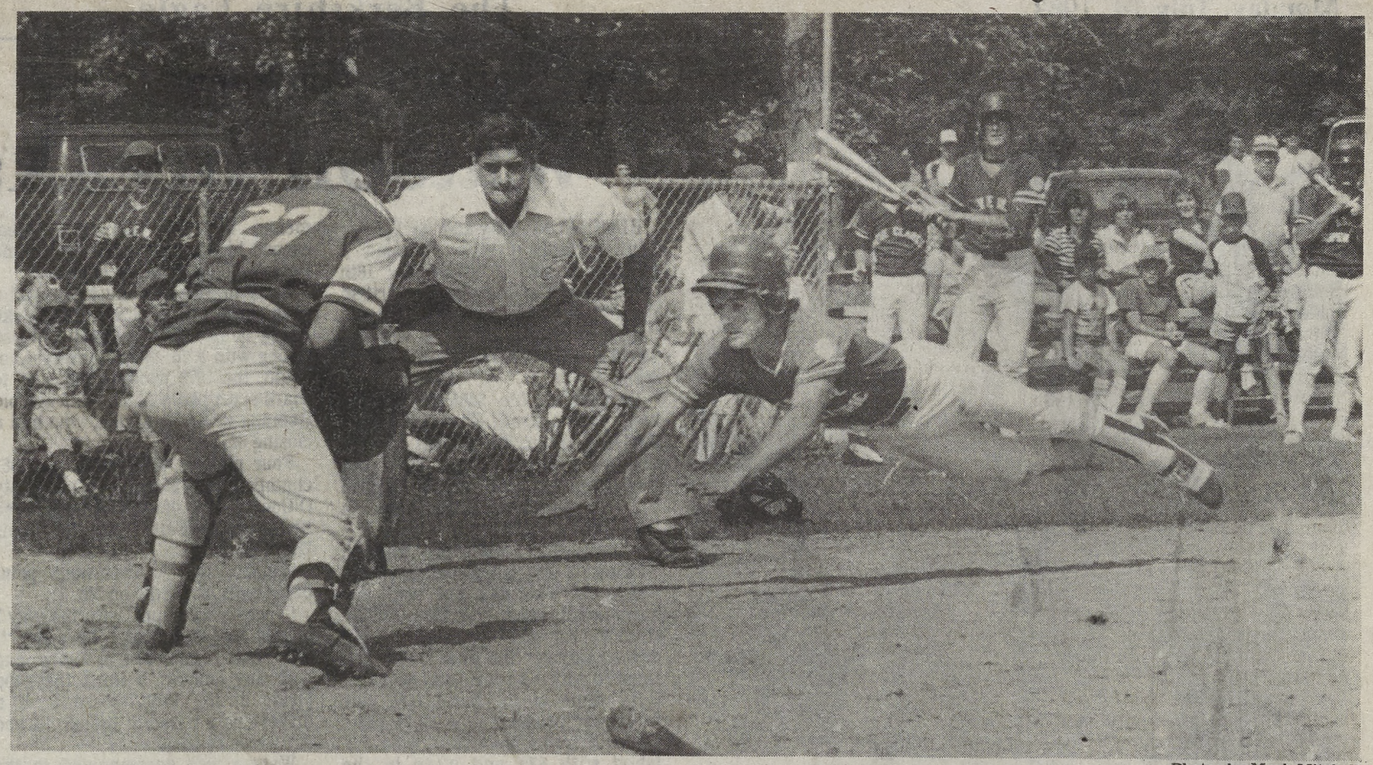
Southern '13s' bow

WESTFIELD — In 13-year-old Babe Ruth League all-star play, county champion South Berkshire went down to an 8-7, eight-inning defeat at the hands of host Westfield on Saturday in the Western State 13-year-old tournament at Westfield Municipal Field.

The loss means that South Berkshire will now play a losers' bracket game today at 2 against Athol. It must win five straight games to win the Western State title.

Trailing 6-0 after five innings, South Berkshire rallied to take a 7-6 lead as two-run singles by Tom Hankey and Adam Morelli capped a four-run sixth and an RBI double by Colin Cadogan and run-scoring singles by Hankey and Dave Troiano produced a three-run seventh.

But Westfield tied it on Brian Mundorf's squeeze bunt in the last of the seventh and won it when Steve Tassinari drew a bases-loaded walk in the eighth.



Photos by Mark Mitchell

Desperation dive

Marty Streit of the Pittsfield Americans gives it all he's got but is still tagged out by Dalton catcher Tim Wells to complete a double play in the first game of Saturday's Berkshire County Babe Ruth League finals in Dalton. Umpire Joe Marziello follows the action. Streit drove in eight runs as the Americans swept a double-header to win the county crown.



Babe Ruth tournaments

July 22, 1983

Americans off to Worcester

SPORTS

By Ray Lamont

The Pittsfield Americans, fresh from winning the Berkshire County 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League championship with a double-header sweep of Dalton last Saturday, head for Worcester today and begin play tomorrow in the Western State 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League tournament at Quinsigamond Community College.

The Americans, who had last won a county title in 1976 and went on to capture their only Western State crown that same year, will begin their bid for this year's championship when they meet the West Side all-stars of Worcester tomorrow at 2 p.m. If the Americans win tomorrow they will play Sunday at 2 against the winner of tomorrow's game between Westfield and the host Tom Ash League of Worcester. If the Americans lose tomorrow, they will face the Westfield-Tom Ash loser Sunday at 5. The seven-team, double-elimination tournament runs through next Thursday.

New Englands next

The Western State champion will gain a berth in the New England regional tournament, which is slated to open August 6 at Warwick, R.I., with the regional champion then gaining a spot in the Babe Ruth League World Series at Frederick, Md.

The Americans are bidding to become the fourth straight Berkshire County team to win a Western State championship. The Pittsfield Nationals won the title the last three years, and, beginning with the Americans' championship in 1976, Pittsfield teams have won five of the last seven Western State crowns.

Perhaps for that reason, Americans' manager Bill Dassat says his team is very optimistic going into this year's tournament. "I figure we have to be as good as anybody else there," Dassat says. "The kids aren't at all intimidated about going down there. They're pretty confident. And they're up — they're really up. They're ready to go."

Hard-hitting team

Another reason for Dassat's optimism is the team's ability to hit. In last Saturday's championship double-header, the Americans tatooed Dalton pitching for 38 runs in two games and belted four homers. The Americans had an incredible team batting average of .527 in the county tournament.

"I think pitching is our key, because we know we can hit," Dassat said. "If we can get some decent pitching we should do all right, because I really think a team may have to score six or seven runs to beat us."

Frank Ott, a 15-year-old right-hander who is already 3-0 in all-star play, will be the Americans' starting pitcher tomorrow, with either left-hander Mike Daley or righty Jeff Astore, a 14-year-old, slated to go Sunday.

All tournament games will be played at Quinsigamond. Berkshire fans planning to attend the games should take the Mass. Turnpike to Exit 10, and then get on I-290 toward Worcester. After driving some 5 miles on I-290, just beyond the downtown Worcester area, fans should take the exit for Route 12 and get on Route 12 north. Follow Route 12 north to the Quinsigamond campus, which is located on the right. Turn into the main campus driveway, which in turn leads to the field.

Seniors at Holyoke

While the Americans are motoring down the Mass. Turnpike to Worcester this morning, the Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League all-stars will be hitting the road as well, heading for MacKenzie Field in Holyoke.

The Pittsfield stars will play Holy Cross of Springfield today at noon in the first round of the Western State 16-to-18-year-old Babe Ruth tournament. The Pittsfield team automatically earns a berth in the states because there is no other Senior Babe Ruth League in the Berkshires and thus no county tournament.

If the Pittsfield seniors win today, they will play in a second-round game tomorrow at 2. If Pittsfield loses, the team will play in a losers' bracket game tomorrow at 11 a.m. The 16-to-18-year-old tournament is an eight-team double-elimination event with play slated to run through next Saturday. All games will be played at MacKenzie Field.



July 25, 1983

Ray Lamont

SCORING the tying run on a wild pitch, Brian Traversa of the Pittsfield Americans crosses the plate during the fourth inning of Saturday's Western State Babe Ruth League all-star game in Worcester. Pitcher Tom Walles of the West Side all-stars of Worcester covers the plate at right, while umpire Lefty Marama eyes the action at left. Traversa's run made the score 2-2, but West Side went on to beat the Americans 4-2.

Babe Ruth tournaments

Americans drop opener; Senior stars eliminated

By Ray Lamont

The Pittsfield Americans all-star team is teetering on the brink of elimination in the Western State 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League baseball tournament this morning after suffering a 4-2 first-round lost to the West Side all-stars of Worcester in a game Saturday at Quinsigamond Community College field in Worcester.

The Americans, who six days earlier had won their first Berkshire County championship since 1976, are scheduled to play a losers' bracket game today at 5 against the host Tom Ash League of Worcester and need a victory to stay alive in the seven-team double-elimination tournament. If the Americans win today, they will play a second-round losers' bracket clash tomorrow.

Today's game with the host Tom Ash team had originally been scheduled for yesterday, but the meet's entire three-game slate was postponed because of rain. That means that the tournament has been pushed back a day, with the finals now set for Friday. The Western State champion will advance to New England tournament play at Warwick, R.I., and will have a chance to move on to the Babe Ruth League World Series at Frederick, Md. The Americans, however, now have to win six straight games in five days to win the Western State title.

The Americans' loss wasn't the only bad news for Berkshire County Babe Ruth League enthusiasts over the weekend. At Holyoke on Saturday, the Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League all-stars were eliminated from the Western State 16-to-18-year-old tournament when they lost by a 12-7 score to Sturbridge. The loss was the Pittsfield team's second in as many days.

West Side 4, Americans 2

WORCESTER — A junk-balling left-hander named Tom Walles stymied Pittsfield's A team on seven hits as West Side advanced to a second-round winners' bracket date today with Westfield.

Walles's slow-breaking stuff kept the Pittsfield hitters off balance, frustrating an Americans' team that had posted a team batting average of .527 in the Berkshire County playoffs and scored 38 runs in a double-header to win the county championship.

"The kid had good stuff," Americans' manager Bill Dassat said, "and he moved the ball around pretty well. I think our kids were a little overanxious at the plate. They were all gritting their teeth and trying to hit the ball out of the park, when what we really needed were just more base hits — more baserunners."

West Side bunched all of its scoring into two innings — the third and the fifth — to overcome a good pitching effort by Pittsfield's Frank Ott, who gave up just six hits in going the distance as well.

Held hitless by Ott for 2⅓ innings, West Side got started in the third when Harold O'Donnell drew a walk and scored on a double by his brother, Keith. Keith O'Donnell then scored his team's second run on one of three American errors.

Pittsfield struck back quickly, tying the game in the top of the fourth, when Ott reached on an error and scored on a triple by shortstop Brian Traversa, who went 2-for-3 on the day and moments later scored on a wild pitch.

But West Side took command in the last of the fifth when Keith O'Donnell, who had led off with walk, scored on a two-out wild pitch and when Mike Manfredo singled, stole second and scored on a looping hit by Bob Lemanski.

Pittsfield had its final scoring chance in the top of the sixth, but Traversa was picked off first following a leadoff single and Walles got Todd Dextradeur to pop up to get the third out with runners on second and third.

Kirk Gilbert joined Traversa in the two-hit column for Pittsfield with a pair of singles. Walles walked two and struck out four in gaining the win, while Ott struck out eight but walked seven.

Sturbridge 12, Seniors 7

HOLYOKE — In the 16-to-18-year-old tournament at Mackenzie Field, Pittsfield took a 4-0 first-inning lead on an RBI double by Scott Haring, run-scoring hits by Kevin Stannard and Wayne McCauley and Mike Petithory's fielder's-choice grounder.

But Sturbridge, the Worcester Central League champion, got one run back in the first, tied it with a three-run fourth and took command with a six-run fifth to KO the Pittsfield club, which has never won a Western State crown.

Haring and Stannard each had two singles and a double for Pittsfield. Eric Shiner, the third of five Pittsfield pitchers, was charged with the loss.

116.

Babe Ruth playoffs

July 26, 1983-

Americans stay alive by posting 7-6 victory

WORCESTER — Like John Travolta, the Pittsfield Americans Babe Ruth League all-star team is stayin' alive in the Western State 13-to-15-year-old all-star tournament.

Frank Ott's run-scoring single in the last half of the eighth inning yesterday to give the Americans a 7-6 win over the host Tom Ash League all-stars of Worcester in a first-round losers' bracket game at the Quinsigamond Community College field.

The victory meams that the Americans will now advance to second-round losers' bracket play, and will face the Ty Cobb League all-stars — another Worcester team — in another losers' bracket game at 5 p.m. today. A win today would boost the Americans into another 5 o'clock game tomorrow, all leading up to the Western State finals on Friday. But Pittsfield, which lost to the West Side all-stars of Worcester in a first-round game here on Saturday, still must win five more games in a row to win the seven-team, double-elimination tournament.

Early scoring

The Americans started fast last night, grabbing a 4-0 lead on the strength of a four-run third inning that included a two-run double by Brian Traversa, an RBI double by Ott, and a run-scoring single off the bat of Jeff Blair.

But Tom Ash tied the game when Chris Monopoli's two-run single highlighted a two-run fourth and when Tom Hamilton banged a run-scoring double in the top of the fifth.

The Worcester team then took the lead in the top of the seventh on a two-run triple by John Lombardi. But the Americans battled back to tie it on an RBI triple by Blair and a run-scoring single by Ed Ladley in the bottom of the seventh.

Winning run

That forced the game into extra innings, and set the stage for the Americans' eighth, when, with two outs, Kirk Gilbert and Traversa both worked their way on with walks.

Ott then followed with the game-winning hit — a single up the middle — and the Americans had kept their title hopes alive while giving the host Ash team an early exit.

Marc Martin, who relieved starter Jeff Astore in the seventh, was the winning pitcher for the Americans while Ash reliever Mike Leistritz was charged with the loss. Ladley had three singles to led a 13-hit Pittsfield attack.

Babe Ruth playoffs

July 27, 1983

Americans eliminated, 15-9

WORCESTER — The Ty Cobb League All-Stars of Worcester exploded for seven runs in the sixth inning to batter the Pittsfield Americans 15-9 and eliminate the Berkshire team from the Western State 13- to 15-year-old Babe Ruth all-star tournament last night at Quinsigamond Community College.

The Americans' loss marks the first time in four years that a Berkshire club has been knocked out of contention for the Western State title in the seven-team, double-elimination tourney. The Pittsfield Nationals had won the title for the past three years.

Ty Cobb took a 6-0 lead in the first two innings, only to see the Americans rally with two runs in the third and five in the fourth to grab a 7-6 advantage.

RBI singles by Mike Daley and Todd Dextradeur highlighted the two-run third, and two-run singles by Kirk Gilbert and Dextradeur, and an RBI double by Frank Ott were key blows in the fourth.

That's how things stood until the top of the sixth inning, when the Cobbers scored seven runs to go ahead 13-7. The Americans narrowed the score to 13-9 with two unearned runs in the bottom of the inning, but Ty Cobb responded with two more tallies in the top of the seventh to round out the scoring.

Winning pitcher John Farrell drove in four runs with three singles to pace Ty Cobb's 12-hit assault. Teammate Mark Johnson stroked two singles and a triple, while Eric Boss and Pete Fennucio stung had hits apiece.

"Ty Cobb just hit the heck out of the ball," Americans' manager Bill Dassat said after the game. "It was their night to hit, and we just couldn't match them."

Ott, Dextradeur and losing pitcher Daley sparked the Americans' 10-hit attack with two hits apiece. Daley pitched into the fateful sixth inning, when he was relieved by Pete Beaudoin.

In yesterday's other loser's bracket game, Leominster edged Worcester West Side 4-3. Leominster will play Ty Cobb in a loser's bracket game today at 5, preceded at 2 by a winner's bracket clash between undefeated Oxford and Westfield. The loser's bracket final will be tomorrow at 5, followed on Friday by the championship game, also at 5 p.m.

BABE RUTH: Ken Fry hurled a four-hitter and Joe Thornton delivered two runs with a pair of hits last night as Besse-Clarke beat VFW 7-3 in Pittsfield Babe Ruth League 13-to-15-year-old action at Reid School. Dave Tynan doubled for the winners. Joe Bishop took the loss, but Barry Moynihan struck out seven in relief for VFW.

In games last night at Deming Field, Sons of Italy slugged its way past Union Federal 19-9 and IUE 255 edged Mass. Energy 9-7.

Gary Bresnehan hurled a complete game, struck out eight, had a triple and single and drove in a run to lead IUE. Paul Gilardi added a single, double and triple, and Dave Gallant had a double, triple and three RBI for the winners. Pat Codey had two hits and B.J. Goclowski took the complete-game loss for Mass. Energy.

Mike Andross had two singles, two doubles, five stolen bases and scored four runs to lead the Sons of Italy. Dave DeCelles, Paul Brindle and winning pitcher Rob Maloney each had three hits for the winners. For Union Federal, Shaun Risley had a single, triple and two RBI, and Rob Esposito took the loss.

July 27, 1983-



July 28, 1983

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONS in 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League all-star play are the Pittsfield Americans, who won the county crown for the first time since 1976. Team members include, left to right: seated in front — bat boy Richie Ott; kneeling — Pete Beaudoin, Marc Martin, Jeff Astore, Kirk Gilbert, Marty Streit, Todd Dextradeur, Danny Moore and Mike Chapman; standing — assistant coach Dave Barber, Marc Pensivy, Frank Ott, Brian Traversa, manager Bill Dassat, Jeff Blair, Mike Daley, Dave Angeli, Ed Ladley and assistant coach Dick Astore.

BABE RUTH: Hermann Alexander's and Union Federal battled to an 11-11 tie last night in their Babe Ruth League 13-to-15-year-old game at Deming Field, which was was called because of darkness after six innings.

For Union Federal, Rob Esposito had a single, double and two RBI and Kevin Jones added two hits. For Hermann Alexander's, John McCloskey had a double, single and RBI, and Jeff Furlano and Jim Kordana added two hits each.

July 28, 1983

BABE RUTH: Winning pitcher John Walton belted three hits, including a triple, and drove in four runs in his own behalf last night as Oliver Auto Body posted a 16-4 win over Mazzer's in Babe Ruth League 13-to-15-year-old action at Reid Middle School.

Bob Najimy drove in three runs, Paul Bowlby drove in two, and Marcus Gomula, Dave Gokey, Don Kuhns and Gilles LaFramboise had two hits each to lead the winners' 16-hit attack. Jeff Blair had a triple and a single, and Gary Clemons took the loss for Mazzer's.

JUL 29 1983

Youth baseball AUG 4 1983

Arace's wins with big 4th

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Arace Datsun exploded for 12 runs in the fourth inning last night and went on to beat Oliver Auto Body 16-8 in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at Reid Middle School.

John Salvie had three hits and five RBI for the winners, while Brian Traversa knocked in four runs with a pair of hits and Tony Grandshaw added three hits and two RBI. Mark Martin had two singles and two doubles while driving in a pair of runs for Oliver's.

In other action, winning pitcher John DiNicola helped his own cause with a pair of hits as Mazzer's Variety edged Besse-Clarke 6-5. Dave Tynan had two doubles and a single to lead Besse's.

Tom McKnight struck out nine in a complete-game pitching effort and helped his team offensively with a pair of hits as Irish American topped Hermann Alexander's by a 6-3 count, while Pete Selkowitz had two hits and two RBI and Gary Bresnahan picked up the pitching win as IUE Local 255 downed Lipton Energy 8-4. Rob Ferris and Rick Koch each had a pair of hits for Lipton's.

AUG 8 1983

BRL



Mark Mitchell

BOUNTIFUL CROPS are in evidence at the Audubon garden site at Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary in Pittsfield, where gardener Duke Doucette on Saturday harvested beets. For six years, the Audubon Society has rented nearly 200 plots to the public for a small fee.

* * * *

BABE RUTH: GEAA and Lipton's both advanced to the Pittsfield Babe Ruth 13-to-15-year-old League National Division round robin finals by posting big victories last night.

Pat Tierney hurled a one-hitter to lead Lipton's to a 16-0 win over the Irish Americans at Deming Field and GEAA rode Steve Wieber's two-hitter to a 15-3 rout of Mass. Energy at Sackett Brook Park. The winners will play tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at Deming for the National round robin title.

Jeff Renzi's double with two out in the bottom of the seventh inning spoiled Tierney's bid for a no-hitter. Tierney had a triple and a single, Rick Koch scored four runs and stole four bases and Jim Miraglia drove in two runs for Lipton. Tom Kushi took the loss.

At Sackett, Wieber struck out nine to lead GEAA past an error-prone Mass. Energy squad. For the winners, Bill Noble had three hits and two RBI, Keith Dupont had two hits and three RBI and Rick Paris added a pair of hits. Shaun Griffin took the loss.

Monday, Besse-Clarke wrapped up the American Division second-half championship with a 23-0 win over Gildo's Auto Body. Besse-Clarke meets first-half champion GE today at 5:30 p.m. at Benedict Road field for the division championship and the right to meet National Division champion IUE 255 for the city title. If Besse-Clarke wins, that best-of-three series is expected to begin Monday. If GE wins, it is expected to begin Saturday.

In the win over Gildo's, Bob Tynan hurled a two-hitter and struck out seven for the victory. Mike Chapman belted two homers, a double and a single and drove in five runs; Todd Dextradeur had three hits and two RBI; Joe Thornton had a homer, two singles and two RBI; Dave Tynan had a homer, single and three RBI, and Bob Thistle added two singles.

AUG 10 1983

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BABE RUTH: Continued wet weather forced postponement of both playoff games scheduled last night in the Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League.

The games were rescheduled for today at 1 p.m., with General Electric playing Besse-Clarke for the American Division championship at Benedict Road field, and Lipton's playing GEAA in a round robin semifinal at Deming Field.

The winner of the game at Benedict Road earns the right to meet National Division champion IUE 255 in the city best-of-three playoff series.

AUG 13 1983

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Yesterday's rains also postponed the American Division championship playoff between General Electric and Besse-Clarke in the Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League. That game is now scheduled for tonight at 5:30 at the Benedict Road field.

The winner of that game will advance to the best-of-three city championship series against National Division winner IUE Local 255. The schedule of that series has not yet been announced.

Also tonight, GEAA and Lipton's will square off in the semifinals of the city round-robin tournament. That game is slated for 5:30 at Deming Field.

AUG 12 1983

BABE RUTH: General Electric earned a berth in the city championship series, and GEAA won the National Division round-robin championship in Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League baseball action Saturday.

GE captured the American Division championship with a come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Besse-Clarke. That win earned the team a trip to the best-of-three city championship against National champion IUE 255. That series begins tonight at 5 at Benedict Road field. The second game is scheduled for Wednesday at 5 at Deming. The third game, if necessary, will be played at a date and place to be announced.

GE spotted Besse-Clarke a 2-0 lead in the first two innings at Benedict Road on Saturday, as losing pitcher Mike Chapman belted an RBI double and his team scored another run on an error.

GE rallied for three runs in the third, thanks to RBI singles from Marty Streit and Jeff Russell, plus a run-scoring grounder by Joe Esposito.

Winning pitcher Jeff Astore then shut the door, blanking Besse-Clarke on two hits and striking out 10 over the last five innings. Steve Gniadek also hurled well in relief, giving up no hits and striking out eight in four innings for Besse-Clarke.

Dan Martin hurled a complete game, struck out nine and added two doubles and a single as GEAA won the National Division round-robin title with a 17-9 victory over Lipton Energy.

Jim Clark added a double, two singles and two RBI; Bill Noble had a double and single, and Mark Blanchard and Steve Godinho had two hits each for the winners. For Lipton, Cliff Newton went 4-for-4 with two RBI and Pat Tierney had three hits and two RBI.

GEAA's opponent in the round-robin final will be determined this week, as the American Division round robin is just getting under way. Today, Besse-Clarke plays Arace at Reid Middle School and Adams faces Gildo's at Deming, both at 5:30. The winners play tomorrow at 5:30 at Benedict, and that winner will earn the right to meet GEAA in the championship game. The date and site of the title game will be announced later.

AUG 15 1983

* * * *

BABE RUTH: First-half winner IUE 255 squeaked out an 8-7 victory over second-half winner Irish-American to claim the National Division championship in Babe Ruth 13-to-15-year-old league action last night at Deming Field.

Pete Selkowitz came on in relief of Gary Bresnehan with two outs in the top of the seventh inning and struck out Irish-American's last batter to end the game with runners stranded on first and third. Bresnehan notched the win, striking out 11 in 6⅔ innings.

In addition to picking up a save, Selkowitz also helped IUE with a triple and two RBI. Joe Sondrini added three hits and two stolen bases for the winners. Irish-American was paced by Chris Smith with two hits, two RBI and two stolen bases, Tom Kushi with two hits and Jeff Renzi with a double. Greg Smith suffered the pitching loss.

The National Division's round-robin tournament begins tomorrow, with Lipton Energy facing Irish-American at Deming Field and Mass. Energy squaring off against GEAA at Sackett Brook Park.

The dates for the city championship series have not yet been set, since the American Division championship is still undecided. Besse-Clarke plays Gildo's Auto Body today at 5:30 at Benedict field for the second-half division title. The winner of that game will face first-half champion GE on Thursday at Benedict.

In recent games at Benedict field, Adams Super Market split a pair of decisions, beating Arace's 9-8 and losing to Besse-Clarke 4-2.

Frank Ott had a double, single and scored three runs, and Scott Johnson had two singles and scored two runs in the win over Arace's. Mike Levardi got the pitching win. For Arace's, losing pitcher John Salvie had a double, single and two RBI.

Ott hurled a four-hitter with eight strikeouts, but Steve Gniadek fired back a three-hitter with eight strikeouts to lead Besse-Clarke to its win. Mike Caparella had an RBI double and Joe Thornton an RBI single for the winners. For Adams, Levardi had a double and Mike Slocik an RBI single.

AUG 9 1983

AUG 16 1983



Carol Sliwa

BARRELING into IUE 255 catcher Joe Sandrini as he tries to grab hold of the ball is General Electric's Mark Taglieri, who was called safe by umpire Don Ostrikis on a sacrifice fly by teammate Chris Shepard in the fourth inning. IUE went on to win the first game of the city 13-to-15 Babe Ruth city championship series 8-4 in extra innings last night at Benedict Field. The story is on Page 22.

* * * *

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Todd Dextradeur had four singles and a double and Mike Chapman knocked in five runs with a single, double and home run last night as Besse-Clarke defeated Adams Super Markets 15-3 in the American Division finals of the Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League's round-robin tournament.

The win means that Besse's will meet National Division round-robin winner GEAA in the finals. The site and time of that game are yet to be determined.

Dextradeur scored three runs and drove in two others in last night's contest, while Ken Fry also boosted Besse's attack with two hits and three runs scored. Frank Ott had a double and a two-run homer for Adams.

The city championship series between American Division champion General Electric and National Division titlist IUE Local 255 will resume tonight at 5 at Deming Field. IUE leads the series 1-0 after beating GE 8-4 in the best-of-three series opener Monday and can wrap up the title by winning tonight. If GE wins, however, that would force the series to a third and deciding game.

If the city series goes to a third game, the round-robin final and the city title game would be played as a double-header Saturday at Wahconah Park.

AUG 17 1983

AUG 16 1983

Babe Ruth baseball

IUE 255, 8-4

IUE 255	ab	r	h	bi	GE	ab	r	h	bi
Sandrini, c	3	2	2	0	Taglieri, 1b	4	1	0	0
Selkowitz 3b	4	3	2	1	Melle, 2b	5	0	1	1
Gilardi, cf	3	1	1	3	Shepard, c	3	2	3	1
Bresnahan, p	3	0	2	1	B.French, ss	3	0	0	0
DiMassimo ss	3	0	0	0	Streit, p-lf	3	0	2	1
Schilling 1b	2	1	0	0	Astore, cf	4	0	1	1
Quadrozzi rf	1	0	0	0	Russell, 3b	4	0	1	0
Carmel, pr	0	0	0	0	Esposito lfp	3	0	1	0
Gallant, lf	5	0	0	0	K.French, rf	1	0	0	0
Carnevale 2b	1	0	0	0					
Soldato, ph	1	0	0	0					
Totals	28	8	7	5	Totals	32	4	9	4

IUE 255	001	300	04—8
GE	101	200	00—4

E—IUE-3, GE-7; LOB—IUE-13, GE-10; 2B—Gilardi, Shepard; SB—Gilardi, Bresnahan, Carnevale, Melle, Shepard (3), Streit (2), Esposito; S—DiMassimo; SF—Gilardi, Shepard.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Bresnahan (W)	8	9	4	2	5	8
Streit (L)	7⅔	7	8	5	14	5
Esposito	⅓	0	0	0	0	1

WP—Streit (4); PB—Shepard, Sandrini (2) HBP—By Streit (Quadrozzi).

AUG 20 1983

GEAA wins Babe Ruth round robin

Dan Martin's run-scoring double in the top of the seventh last night capped a three-run inning and gave GEAA a 9-8 win over Besse-Clarke in the finals of the Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old round robin tournament at the Benedict Road field.

GEEA, trailing 5-0 after five innings, took the lead with a six-run sixth, only to have Besse's go back on top 8-6 when Mike Chapman cracked a three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth.

But GEAA rallied a second time for three runs in the seventh to pull out the victory.

Martin had three hits for GEAA, while Keith Dupont belted a two-run homer amid the team's big six-run sixth. Joe Thornton had three hits for Besse's.

Rick Paris was the winning pitcher in relief, while Bob Tynan, also a reliever, was tagged with the loss.



Susan Plagemen

LOOPER off the bat of IUE's Pete Selkowitz drops for a base hit despite the lunging efforts of General Electric shortstop Brian French, right, during last night's Babe Ruth League city championship game at Deming Field. GE left fielder Joe Esposito moves in at left. IUE beat GE 10-5 to complete a sweep of their best-of-three city title series.

8-18-83

IUE sweeps GE to win city BRL title

By Ray Lamont

Gary Bresnehan knocked in four runs with a single and a double and Paul Gilardi picked up the pitching win with relief help from Pete Selkowitz last night as IUE Local 255 won the Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League city championship by beating General Electric 10-5 at Deming Field.

The victory gave National Division champion IUE a sweep of the best-of-three city title series. IUE had beaten American Division champ GE by an 8-4 score in the opener Monday night.

For the second straight time, GE took the early lead, getting two runs in the third inning last night on a bases-loaded walk to Brian French and a run-scoring single by Jeff Russell.

But IUE came roaring back and took command of the game with a whopping eight-run rally in the last of the fourth.

The big fourth began when Dan Schilling walked, went to second on a hit by Jeff Quadrozzi and took third on a walk to pinch hitter Gary Soldato. Jim Wlodkowski, another pinch hitter, then tied the game with a two-run single to right, and walks to Joe Sondrini and Selkowitz forced in another run to give the union team the lead.

Two-run double

But IUE didn't stop there. Helping his own cause, Gilardi lofted a sacrifice to center to score Wlodkowski, and Bresnehan followed by slicing a two-run double to left, making it 6-2. Bresnehan later scored when GE pitcher Jeff Astore was called for a balk, and IUE's Jamie DiMassimo raced in with the final run of the inning when GE forgot to call time out after another walk to Schilling.

GE got two runs back in the top of the fifth when Russell delivered another RBI single and when French, who had walked, scored on an error. But IUE padded its lead in the last of the sixth on a two-run single by Bresnehan and relief pitcher Selkowitz worked his way out of a bases-loaded jam in the top of the sixth to nail down the victory.

The victory capped a banner season for IUE, which had gone 9-13 last year but finished with a regular-season mark of 17-5 this time around.

"I told the kids at the beginning of the year that we were going to win it," IUE coach Dave Gilardi said. "That might have sounded funny then, but I like to be optimistic, and I like to get the kids thinking optimistically, too. Once you start thinking you can do something, a lot of times you find out you really can. These kids are great kids. They've worked, but they've really seemed to enjoy themselves, too. They love to play the game. And when you like what you're doing, you usually do well at it."

Paul Gilardi, the son of the coach, went the first 5⅓ innings to get the win on the mound, while GE starter Astore was charged with the loss.

The only game remaining on the Babe Ruth League calendar is the round-robin championship game. That game, matching GEAA against Besse-Clarke, will be played tomorrow night at 5 at the Benedict Road field.



Ray Lamont

SENIOR BABE RUTH League champion is the Mystic Lodge team, which won the 16-to-18-year-old league's second-half crown and beat Adams Co-Operative Bank in a championship playoff. Team members include, left to right: FRONT ROW — batgirl Sarah Nesbit, head coach Leo Nesbit Jr., Tony Trzcinka, Sean Carroll, Mark Schlich, Adam Krebs and Bob Principe; BACK ROW — assistant coach Leo Nesbit Sr., Pat Anello, Mark Provencher, Tim Miller, Paul Cancilla, Ray Hover, Mike Sohmer, Vic Ostellino and assistant coach Mike Donovan.

AUG 20 1983



Susan Plageman

CITY CHAMPION of the Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League is IUE Local 255, which won the National Division championship and then swept American Division champ General Electric in their best-of-three city title series. Team members include, left to right: seated in front — team mascot Jason Gilardi; first row — bat boy Paul Bresnehan, Dave Gallant, Jeff Carmel, Jim Wlodkowski, Marco Carnevale, Gary Soldato, Jamie DiMassimo, John Wlodkowski, Jay DiCicco; back row — head coach Dave Gilardi, Paul Gilardi, Joe Sondrini, Pete Selkowitz, Gary Bresnehan, Dan Schilling, Jeff Quadrozzi, assistant coach Dick Gilardi and assistant coach John Bresnehan. Mike Lamoreaux and assistant coach Ed Basinski were absent when the picture was taken.

AUG 22 1983



Bob McDonough

RECEIVING OVATION from crowd of 23,069 at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium on Saturday was Pittsfield native Mark Belanger, who along with his former manager, Earl Weaver, was inducted into the Orioles' Hall of Fame.

Belanger honored in Baltimore

Pittsfield native inducted to O's Hall of Fame

By Bob McDonough

BALTIMORE — Two years ago, they parted company with harsh words.

But Saturday, it was sugar and spice and everything nice as Pittsfield native Mark Belanger and his longtime manager — and sometimes nemesis — Earl Weaver were inducted into the Baltimore Orioles' Hall of Fame.

A sun-drenched crowd of 23,069 helped celebrate the event, braving record-breaking 105-degree heat in ceremonies before the Orioles' nationally televised game with the Kansas City Royals.

Just two years ago, after spending 15 years with the Orioles, the Pittsfield-born shortstop was released by the Orioles and finished his career last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers. His parting from Weaver was filled with acrimony, as Weaver benched him, Belanger in turn questioned Weaver's policies and called him a "liar," and Weaver effectively told him to keep his mouth shut.

Storm has blown over

But since both retired at the end of last season, the acrimony seems to have worn off, blown over in the way of all storms.

"I don't think there's any player in baseball who can play with a manager and not have any differences," Belanger said Saturday. "But that's not to say I don't think he's one of the best who's ever managed."

During his ceremonial thanks, Weaver, in turn, called Belanger "the best fielding shortstop to ever play in the American League."

But in the true form of "May lightning strike me dead," Weaver dropped his microphone on the ground after offering the compliment.

Belanger, long known as a "good field, no hit" player, earned his local Hall of Fame honor by establishing an American League career fielding record of .977 and winning eight straight Gold Glove awards with the Orioles. Weaver, in 15 years of managing the team, led the Orioles to first or second place in 13 of those seasons.

Made it first time

Both were elected to the Orioles Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility, with Belanger receiving 52 of a possible 56 votes in balloting by sportswriters, broadcasters and members of the Oriole Advocates, a local baseball booster club. Weaver was named on 50 ballots. Only Brooks and Frank Robinson had been elected to the Hall in their first year of eligibility.

Saturday, Belanger and Weaver were presented with life-size, handmade replicas of their clubhouse lockers, which will be placed on permanent display in the Memorial Stadium Hit 'n' Run Club. Each also received framed drawings, plus plaques that will be placed in the Babe Ruth Birthplace/Maryland Baseball Hall of Fame in Baltimore. Both were also honored at a dinner Saturday night.

"I'm very fortunate, because even in the minor leagues, I was always on a pennant contender," Belanger said before Saturday's ceremony, when asked what stood out most in his mind about his career. "There was the World Series, the All-Star game and the chance to play with so many great players. I couldn't have written a better script than that. I'm very honored."

He and Weaver are the eighth and ninth members of the Hall of Fame, joining such Oriole greats as the Robinsons, Luis Aparicio, Dave McNally, Boog Powell, Mike Cuellar and Gus Triandos. Eligible but passed over this year in favor of Belanger and Weaver were such standouts as George Bamberger, Milt Pappas and Jim Gentile.

Praise for Weaver, city

"I was fortunate in my 15 years to be surrounded by so many great players, like Brooks and Frank, Boog, Dave McNally," Belanger said in his address to the crowd. "And fortunate to have played for one of the great managers in baseball, Earl Weaver . . . and I have been very fortunate and very happy to have played for you people in Baltimore, the best damn fans

Belanger honored
Continued on Page 33



Bob McDonough

REUNITED in ceremonies at Baltimore on Saturday were Pittsfield's Mark Belanger, left, and manager Earl Weaver, right, holding framed drawings of themselves.

AUG 22 1983

22—The Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, August 16, 1983

Babe Ruth baseball

IUE 255 wins playoff opener, 8-4

By Carol Sliwa

Paul Gilardi's double down the left field line broke a 4-4 tie in the top of the eighth inning, sending home the eventual winning runs to help lift IUE 255 to an 8-4 victory over General Electric in the opening game of the 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth city championship series last night at Benedict Field.

The second game in the best-of-three series is set for tomorrow at 5 p.m. at Deming Field.

After a spell of three scoreless innings last night, IUE quickly came to life in the first extra inning of play, as Joe Sondrini led off with a single to right. Pete Selkowitz then lined sharply to GE center fielder Jeff Astore — who very nearly gloved the shot, but it slipped from the heel of his glove setting the stage for Gilardi's big hit.

Walks and errors led to IUE's final two runs, with Gilardi and Dan Schilling scoring the final two runs of the inning.

Joe Esposito tried to ignite a GE rally in the bottom of the eighth, starting off with a sharp single to left, but IUE starting pitcher Gary Bresnehan sandwiched a strikeout between two ground ball outs to end the game.

"We've had a lot of tight games like this, and the kids have always come through. They have a lot of character," beamed winning coach Dave Gilardi of his National League champions. "We didn't hit early. I thought we were a little anxious."

Walks and errors were instrumental in IUE's first four runs. In the third, a lead-off walk to Selkowitz, followed by two errors, resulted in their first run when Gilardi drove him in with a sacrifice fly to tie the score at 1-1.

GE had scored its first run with two outs in the first inning, as Chris Shepard (who went 3-for-3 on the night) singled and later scored on a single by Marty Streit.

GE took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the third when Shepard lined a sacrifice fly to right to knock in Mark Taglieri, who had walked.

That lead was short-lived, as IUE rallied to take a 4-2 lead in the fourth. With one out, Marco Carnevale walked and stole second. An infield single by Sondrini moved him to third, and Selkowitz rapped a single to right to plate Carnevale.

Then, with two outs, Bresnehan helped his own cause, beating out a slow roller to second base to send Sondrini home. Selkowitz also raced home in the confusion to score IUE's fourth run.

However, GE fought right back in the bottom of the inning. With one out, Bresnehan walked Todd Drury and Mark Taglieri, both of whom eventually scored — Drury on a single by Mickey Melle and Taglieri on a sacrifice fly by Shepard.

GE put runners in scoring position just twice more in the game, and was unable to push across any more runs.

In notching the complete game victory, Bresnehan allowed just two earned runs, striking out eight and walking five. For GE, losing pitcher Streit was plagued in his 7⅔ innings by 14 walks, although he did work out of several jams — including a bases-loaded no out situation in the second.

Round robin semifinals

Besse-Clarke and Adams Super Market posted victories last night to advance to the finals of the Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League American Division round robin playoff.

Besse-Clarke, a 10-4 winner over Arace's, and Adams, a 7-4 winner over Gildo's Auto Body, will meet today at 5:30 at Benedict Road field for the American Division round robin title. The winner of today's game will face National Division round robin winner GEAA for the city round robin title. The date and location of that game are yet to be determined.

Besse-Clarke pounded out 12 hits, including six doubles, in its win over Arace's at Reid School. Joe Thornton, Mike Chapman, Dave Gniadek and Steve Gniadek had two hits each, and Dave Tynan and winning pitcher Bob Tynan drove in two runs apiece for the winners. Brian Traversa led Arace's with two hits and three RBI, and John Salvie took the loss.

Winning pitcher Mike Levardi drove in three runs with a single and a double, and Adams broke open a close game with six runs in the seventh inning in its win over Gildo's. Frank Ott had a triple and single and Paul Lesage added two singles for Adams. Rob Gaucher led Gildo's with two hits, and Mike Daley took the loss.

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BABE RUTH BASEBALL: The Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League is seeking persons to serve on its board of directors for the 1984 season.

Anyone interested in helping the league in that capacity should contact president Jim Hassett at his home at 51 Wellington Ave. by Oct. 20.

OCT 7 1983

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MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: Registration for the four Minor League of Pittsfield divisions will begin Saturday at four locations. Signups will be conducted from 10 to noon on Saturday and from 6 to 7 on Monday.

All four registration locations will be at fire stations: North Division players should sign up at the Peck's Road station; East Division, Somerset Avenue; West Division, West Housatonic Street, and South Division, Holmes Road.

Any boy or girl age 8 through 12 is eligible to play in the Minor League. The program is also seeking volunteers to help as coaches and in other capacities. Interested persons may sign up at these sessions.

MAR 31 1983

* * * *

BRINDLE BASEBALL: The Paul Brindle Baseball League, which is in need of coaches and umpires for the coming season, has scheduled a meeting of all current and prospective coaches Wednesday at 7 at the home of league president Gerry Sohmer, 72 Joan Drive. Anyone interested in being an umpire should call Sohmer at his home.

MAY 2 1983

* * * *

MINOR LEAGUE: The Egremont Division champions, Elm Street Car Wash, swept the South Division champions, Greenleaf Auto Body, in two straight games in the South Minor League playoff series to earn a berth in next month's Minor League of Pittsfield's city championship playoffs.

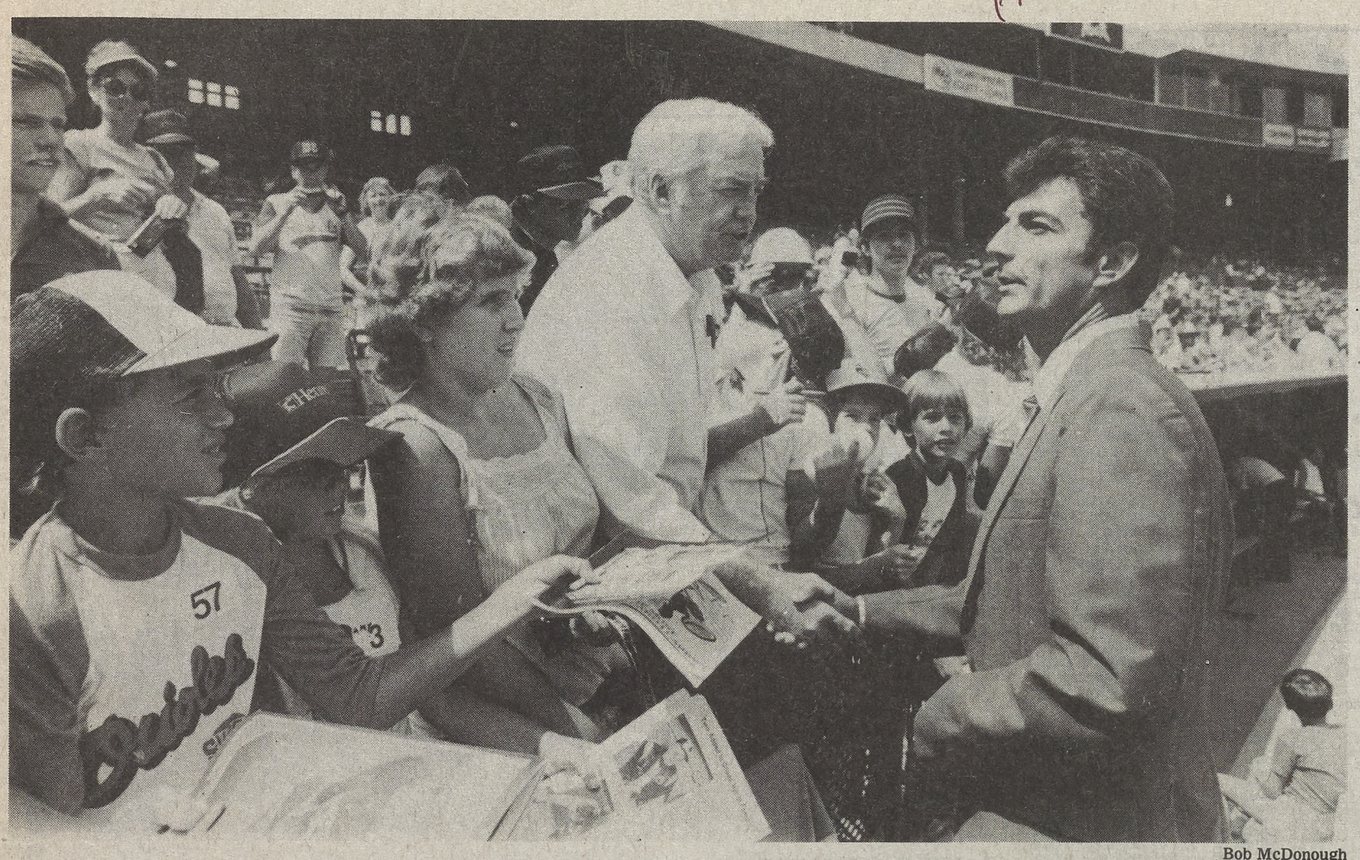
Elm Street Car Wash won the first game 7-3, and wrapped up the series by posting a 9-8 win in the second contest.

In the first game, Donny Wetherall pitched three innings of no-hit ball to pick up the win and helped his own cause with a single, a home run, and two RBI.

In the second clash, Car Wash withstood a seven-run Greenleaf fifth-inning rally as Josh Zolkowski earned the pitching win and Darvin Munger picked up a save by striking out the side in the sixth. Munger also had three hits and two RBI, while George Mautner delivered a clutch three-run double.

* * * *

July 14, 1983



Bob McDonough

OLD FRIENDS Mark Belanger, right, and his former Pittsfield High basketball coach Frank Moynihan, in white shirt, share a moment at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium before ceremonies inducting Belanger into the Orioles' Hall of Fame.

Belanger honored

Continued from Page 31

in baseball."

Belanger, introduced as "the personification of fielding consistency and brilliance," couldn't pinpoint any standout offensive game during his career, even though he had 1,304 career hits and tied the team record with five in one game May 11, 1974.

"I never had any big hits," he said. "I was always the guy who set the table. But I remember a New York game here one time. I got 13 or 14 chances. No errors."

Best remembered as 'skinny'

Asked what they most remembered about their former teammate, Oriole pitchers Jim Palmer and Scott McGregor both responded, "Skinny." Always thin as a rail, the 6-foot-2 Belanger, known by teammates as "The Blade," has maintained his 170-pound playing weight.

"Mark wasn't flashy," Palmer recalled, "he just played the hitters well, and he got the ball there ahead of the runners, which is just what you're supposed to do. Everybody took what he did for granted, he made it look so easy. It's too bad he didn't get more recognition."

Palmer threw his no-hitter on a day in 1969 when Belanger and Brooks Robinson, the Orioles' famed "Leather Curtain," were both out of the lineup.

"I don't know how I ever did it without them," he said. "It must have made me try harder."

Belanger sidelights

By Bob McDonough

BALTIMORE — Some notes from Saturday's Orioles' Hall of Fame Day at Memorial Stadium:

— Mark Belanger has left Personal Management Associates in Baltimore to become an assistant to Major League Baseball Players Association executive director Kenneth Moffett in New York City. In that job since April, Belanger said his duties include "any and all. I answer questions about pensions, talk to players about problems they have, take care of donation request — a multitude of things." A former Oriole player representative and a chief spokesman for the players during their 1981 strike, he is commuting to the New York office from his Maryland home.

— The Belangers and Berkshires were well represented Saturday. Among those attending were Mark's wife, the former Darryl Apple, and their sons Rich, 15, and Rob, 14; Mark's parents Ed and Maria Belanger; Mark's brother Al and his son, Mike; Mark's father-in-law Ed Apple; Darryl's brothers and sisters Nellie, Chris, Patrick and Timothy; Mark's former Lanesboro neighbors Don and Brian Griffin; former Pittsfield residents Joe and Laura Metallo; and Mark's former Pittsfield High basketball coach Frank Moynihan, his wife, Nancy, and their children, Barry and Kerry.

— Belanger was also recently inducted into the Capital District Hall of Fame in Albany, N.Y., but was unable to attend the ceremonies.

— Asked about his chances about making one more Hall of Fame, the big one in Cooperstown, Belanger just laughed, considered his career .228 batting average and said, "I don't think so."

— Joe Garagiola was around the clubhouse before broadcasting Saturday's game for NBC, and had a field day with both Weaver and Belanger. Walking up to Belanger just before the big ceremony, Garagiola grinned and said, "Let me ask one question — Why?" As for Weaver, now doing TV commmentary for the competiting ABC network, Garagiola joked with him, "You keep listening to me, and you could be interesting. I'll tell you what. We get rained out today, I'll give you four hours of ad libs."

— Arriving at the stadium for his induction, Belanger peeked his head in the locker room and told his ex-teammates he had only one request. "Don't screw it up," he joked, drawing a flurry of towels in his direction. The Birds complied, winning 6-1.

Another Pittsfield player still trying

As Belanger collects honors, Lisi aims for big time

By Carol Sliwa

SITUATION WANTED: *Professional baseball player with 10 years of minor-league experience seeks spring training position with major-league baseball team. Ability to play every position. Excellent defensive outfielder. Can hit, with some power. Good speed.*

"Just look at me as a possible 25th man," adds the job hunter. "I've been around long enough, and if you need that 25th man that could be your third catcher, backup first baseman, steady outfielder, I'm your guy."

That's the sales pitch former Pittsfield High star Ric Lisi, now playing for the Rochester Red Wings in the Class AAA International League, could be using in two short months if he becomes a free agent — a status he is eligible for since he has played seven continuous years in the minor leagues.

The only obstacle to his free agency is a promotion to the Baltimore Orioles' 40-man roster with an acceptable new contract. At present, that appears unlikely, according to Rochester assistant general manager Pat Brown. So Lisi will probably be eligible to test the waters of the open market in pursuit of his dream.

Kid's game and business

"It's a paradox — playing a boy's game, but you've got to be a businessman," says Lisi, who plans to make the telephone calls to all of the major-league teams himself. "And I'm still pretty naive because I don't want to admit that it's a business."

At 27, Lisi is living out a commitment he made as a 14-year-old kid. And he's not about to give that up just yet — even if he has to play AAA ball again next year.

"He's already dedicated 10 years of his life to baseball. If I were him, I wouldn't sell myself short just yet," says Rochester Red Wings manager Lance Nichols. "There's no doubt in my mind that Ric could go up to the major leagues and do a creditable job."

In the opening months of the 1983 season, Lisi started off with a bang. His average ballooned as high as .420, tops in the International League for a couple of weeks, until trailing off to .261 of late.

"I recognize the fact, and he recognizes the fact, he's been hurt," says Nichols. "But he won't come out of the game. Going into the fence to catch a ball, he sprained his wrist . . . Then he continued to play when he turned his ankle playing second base. He's that kind of individual. Knowing he can go out and play the game every day, his .261 is more important maybe than somebody else's."

Lisi leads the Red Wings in games (118) and at bats (449) and is second in runs (78), hits (117) and doubles (20). His nine triples place him second in the league.

"On our team, he's the one, honestly, you could say picks everybody up," says Rochester catcher John Stefero. "It's his attitude. He hustles. He's great to have on the team."

"He's what we call a gamer. He's always been a great competitor," adds Red Wings teammate Mike Calise, a seven-year minor-league veteran. "With his ability, there's no reason why he shouldn't [make the major leagues]. He's just in a business where it's a numbers game. Guys with less ability make it up."

Perhaps the hottest outfield prospect in the Orioles organization right now is Mike Young, the player who was called up to Baltimore instead of Lisi when Danny Ford was injured earlier in the summer.

"For the role that they were asking, I gave them two names: Mike Young, a switch hitter, playing very well, a roster player; and Ric Lisi, a non-roster player, hitting very well, playing very well in the field," says Nichols. "Sometimes the decision is based on, 'I've seen you [in spring training] and feel more comfortable with you."

Young is now back with Rochester, which is seeking a playoff just as the parent club. Teammate Lisi preoccupies himself with that quest, outwardly projecting nothing short of a winning attitude.

Life has been altered

But inside, there are still lingering moments of self-doubt — remnants of a rather self-destructive past in the minor leagues' "on the road fraternity" that very well could have put an end to his career.

"My life has been totally altered," says Lisi, who spent the first eight years of his career with the Texas Rangers organization. "It's like the pains of youth if you want to be philosophical about it.

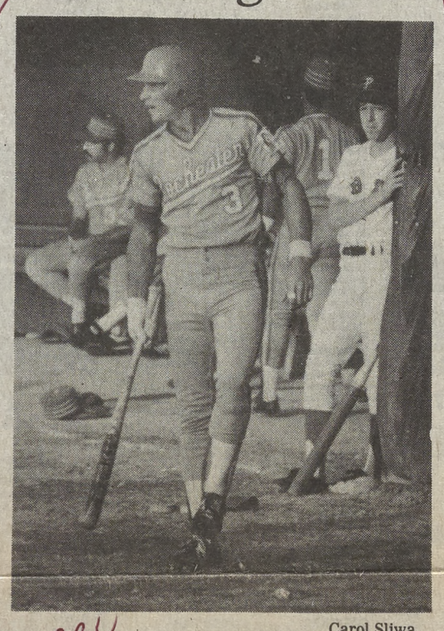
"I did everything. Obsessed with getting out of Pittsfield and going my own way, when I finally got out in the world, I let it go too much. I lost a lot of my discipline, but I learned a lot of things. I wouldn't be what I am now if I didn't go through that . . . And I can only thank God for that, because the way I was going, I was going to be useless to anybody."

In 1981, Lisi made it to the major leagues for a brief stint with the Texas Rangers, hitting .313 in nine games. He finished off the year in Triple A ball with Wichita.

Then came the big blow, the low point of his career. The Rangers called up nine players to the parent club, and Lisi was not among them. He was very upset that they never told him why, although he does not resort to blaming Texas for his not making the major leagues.

"A lot of players talk about how they got a bad deal. You do it yourself, ultimately one way or the other," says Lisi. "Anything I've gotten I brought to myself. I made Triple A because of my own doing. Breaks are something you make on your own anyway."

He was traded to Baltimore for pitcher Steve Luebber and had a mediocre year in 1982 with Rochester. However, this year is much more enjoyable.



Carol Sliwa

Ric Lisi
On deck in Triple A baseball

"I've never had any fun, maybe up until this year," says Lisi, "because I know that I have a mission. Somebody can ask me a question, and I can answer why I am here today — because it's God's will for me. It's just by faith alone that I'm all right."

Whether closer to or farther away from the major leagues at this point in his life, Lisi's outlook is much brighter than it was in the past. Somewhere down the line, he figures he'll be working with children. He spent last winter directing a youth basketball league at the Pittsfield Boys' Club.

"God's gift to me was the ability to communicate with children. Whether I want the gift or not, I have it," he says. "And I'm thankful that I have the gift."

That's a probability for the future. But more immediately, he still sees the major leagues as a strong possibility.

"See, I've got a word, and I believe it's maybe the reason — if I ever get to the big leagues at such a late age, it is because I had to learn this," says Lisi. "I've got a word to give, and that's about faith. It's about God.

"It would be my one word that I know would be worthwhile, that I'd have something to offer, to give back if somebody were to ask me, 'Well, how does a guy spend 10 years in the minor leagues and all of a sudden he's in the big leagues?' " says Lisi.

In his guidebook to life, the Bible, more out-of-the-ordinary things have been recorded.



Carol Sliwa

KEEPING OCCUPIED between innings, creating a small puddle with the remains of his chewing tobacco, former Pittsfield High star Ric Lisi (center, without hat) watches the the Pawtucket Red Sox warm up during a recent Class AAA game in Rhode Island.

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P205/70RX13	52.50	2.01	P205/75RX15	57.50	2.44
P175/75RX14	48.50	1.87	P215/75RX15	60.50	2.59
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P175/75RX14	52.50	1.85	WHITE LETTER		
P185/75RX14	53.50	1.99	P175/70RX13	50.50	1.62
P195/75RX14	59.50	2.14	P185/70RX13	51.50	1.88
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GIRLS' SOFTBALL: The Pittsfield Park Department is looking for coaches for its ASA girls' softball leagues for players age 10-15. They are needed for both the minor-league program, for ages 10-12, and for the major league, for ages 13-15.

Anyone interested in coaching in either league may contact Linda Murphy at the Park Department.

All coaches are asked to attend an organizational meeting tonight at 7 at the Park Department headquarters, 874 North St.

APR 20 1983

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SOFTBALL: The Catholic Youth Center will sponsor a girls' softball league beginning next Saturday at the Common on First Street.

The program is for girls in grades 4 through 8.

Any girls wishing to play in the program should sign up at the Common Saturday at 9:30 a.m. In case of rain, the registration program will be held at the CYC.

APR 26 1983

GIRLS' SOFTBALL: Registration for girls' softball sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation has been scheduled for Saturday from 10 to noon at Springside House, 874 North St. Registrations will be accepted until Tuesday at 5 p.m., but late registrants will be placed on a waiting list.

There will be two divisions, the Minor League for those aged 10 to 12 and a Major League for those aged 13 to 15. Girls must be 10 by June 1 and may not turn 16 before Aug. 31. An equipment fee of $5 must be paid when registering. The Minor League will use the zoo field at Springside Park and the Major League will use fields at Pittsfield and Taconic high schools.

Coaches are still needed for the Minor League, and anyone wishing to coach should contact Linda Murphy at the Parks Department.

* * * *

May 5, 1983

GIRLS' SOFTBALL: The Pittsfield Park Department girls' age 13-15 Slow-Pitch Softball League has selected its team that will compete this weekend in the state 13-15 tournament. The double-elimination tourney is scheduled for Groff Park in Amherst.

Team members include Debby Anish, Ruth Cohen, Sandi Hassett and Mary Robarge of the Orioles; Shannon Blake, Michelle Barzowskas and Kelly O'Hagerty of the Cardinals; Debbie Meaney and Tammy Voloscove of the Eagles; Sue Dahrouge, Sue DiNicola and Sandy Wood of the Red Sox; Colleen Driscoll and Sandra Lebeau of the Brewers and Marie Moresi of the Falcons. Coaches are Joe Dahrouge and Denny Lebeau.

In the girls' league, the Orioles lead with a 7-1 mark, followed by the Cardinals (6-2), Eagles (4-4), Red Sox (3-5), Brewers (2-6) and Falcons (2-6). The league is on a break until July 25.

July 6, 1983

AUG 3 1983

GIRLS' SOFTBALL: The Orioles posted a 10-9 win over the Cardinals last night to wrap up first place as the Pittsfield Parks and Recreation girls' major softball league concluded its regular season. The Orioles are 9-2, Cardinals 8-3, Eagles 5-5, Red Sox 4-6, Brewers 3-7 and Falcons 2-8.

The league playoffs begin tonight with the Cardinals vs. the Red Sox at 6 at Pittsfield High. Tomorrow, the Eagles play the Brewers at 6 at PHS. The winners play for the right to meet the Orioles for the league championship beginning Aug. 8. The league will conclude with a car wash Aug. 13 from 10 to 2 at PHS.

AUG 6 1983

City girls' playoff

The second-place Red Sox downed the third-place Brewers 12-6 in a playoff elimination final last night to advance to the City Girls' age 13-to-15 Slow Pitch Softball League championship series starting Monday against the league champion Orioles.

In other playoff games leading up to yesterday's elimination final, the Red Sox defeated the fourth-place Cardinals 13-11 Wednesday, and the Brewers edged the fifth-place Eagles 11-10 Thursday. The best-of-three series matching the Red Sox and Orioles will begin Monday night at 6 at the Pittsfield High field.

* * * *

GIRLS' SOFTBALL: The Orioles and Red Sox will meet tonight at 6 at the Pittsfield High field in the third and deciding game of the Pittsfield Park Department's 13-to-15-year-old girls' softball league city championship series.

The Red Sox won the first game of the series Monday night, beating the Orioles 7-2, but the Orioles won the second game last night by a 12-0 count.

The Park Department's 13-to-15-year-old all-star team earned second place in the Greenfield Invitational Lassie League tournament earlier this month. The Pittsfield team posted a record of 2-2.

After tonight's city championship game, the only events remaining on the 13-to-15-year-old league's season calendar will be a benefit car wash Saturday at Pittsfield High and a league picnic Aug. 25 at Wild Acres.

AUG 10 1983



Susan Plageman

MAJOR DIVISION champions for the third straight year in the Park Department girls' softball league are the Orioles, who were 33-6 over those three seasons. Team members are, from left to right: FRONT ROW — Mary Robarge, Sandi Hassett and Debbie Anish. MIDDLE ROW — assistant coach Bruce Monyahan, Sheila Percy, Amy Robarge, Paula Ragan, Paula St. Cyr, Barbara Palmer and coach Paul Anish. BACK ROW — Alicia Monyahan, Suzanne LaPierre, Patty Westcott and Rena Albertazzi. Melanie Thistle, Ruth Cohen and Tanya Davis were absent when the photo was taken.



Susan Plageman

MINOR DIVISION champions in the Park Department girls' softball league are the Yankees. Team members are, from left to right: FRONT ROW — Christine Ferrari, Amy Butterworth, Pat Ferrari and Michele Taylor. MIDDLE ROW — assistant coach Kathy Hickey, Stephanie Hubert, Kerri Wondoloski, Rebecca Reed, Elana Delusky, Jackie Decorie and coach Lorita Decorie. BACK ROW — Kristen Decorie, Jennifer White, Tanya Arasinowicz, Christine Lake and Carrie Taylor. Kristen Fiedler and Angela Sacchetti were absent when photo was taken.

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The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, August 13, 1983—27

Area sports

Junior grid league to open registration

YOUTH FOOTBALL: Registration for the Pittsfield Junior Football League, sponsored by the city's recreation division, will be conducted Monday through Friday.

To be eligible, players must be 9 to 14 years of age. The league will be divided into the A Division for players 12 to 14 and the B Division for players 9 to 11. July 31 and Aug. 1 are the birthday cutoff dates for age divisions.

Interested candidates should fill out the registration coupon on this page and return it to the recreation headquarters at 874 North St. Tryouts will begin Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. on the Common on First Street. Teams will be picked Aug. 25. Candidates must attend at least half the tryouts and must be present Aug. 25 to be picked. Anyone who will be away that week should register in advance with a note to that effect and the candidate will be assigned to a team.

Candidates must obtain medical waivers from a family physician. League rules require all players to wear cups and protective mouthpieces, which are provided by the players.

The league is for Pittsfield residents only, and there is a $6 registration fee to defray league expenses.

SEP 10 1983

Area sports

Grid league sells tickets tomorrow

FOOTBALL TICKETS: The Pittsfield Junior Football League will conduct its annual door-to-door sale of season tickets tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All league players will participate in the sale, and anyone wishing to volunteer their services for the sale should report to the Common on First Street at 9:30 a.m. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will help defray league expenses for equipment and insurance..

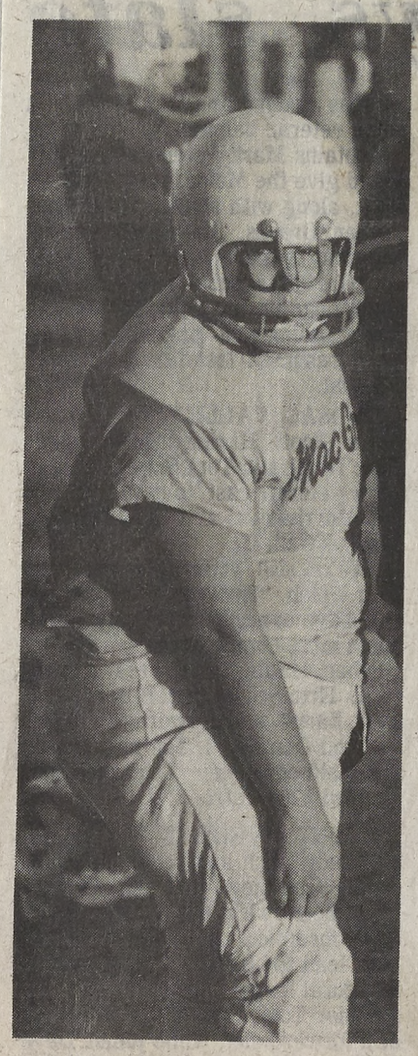
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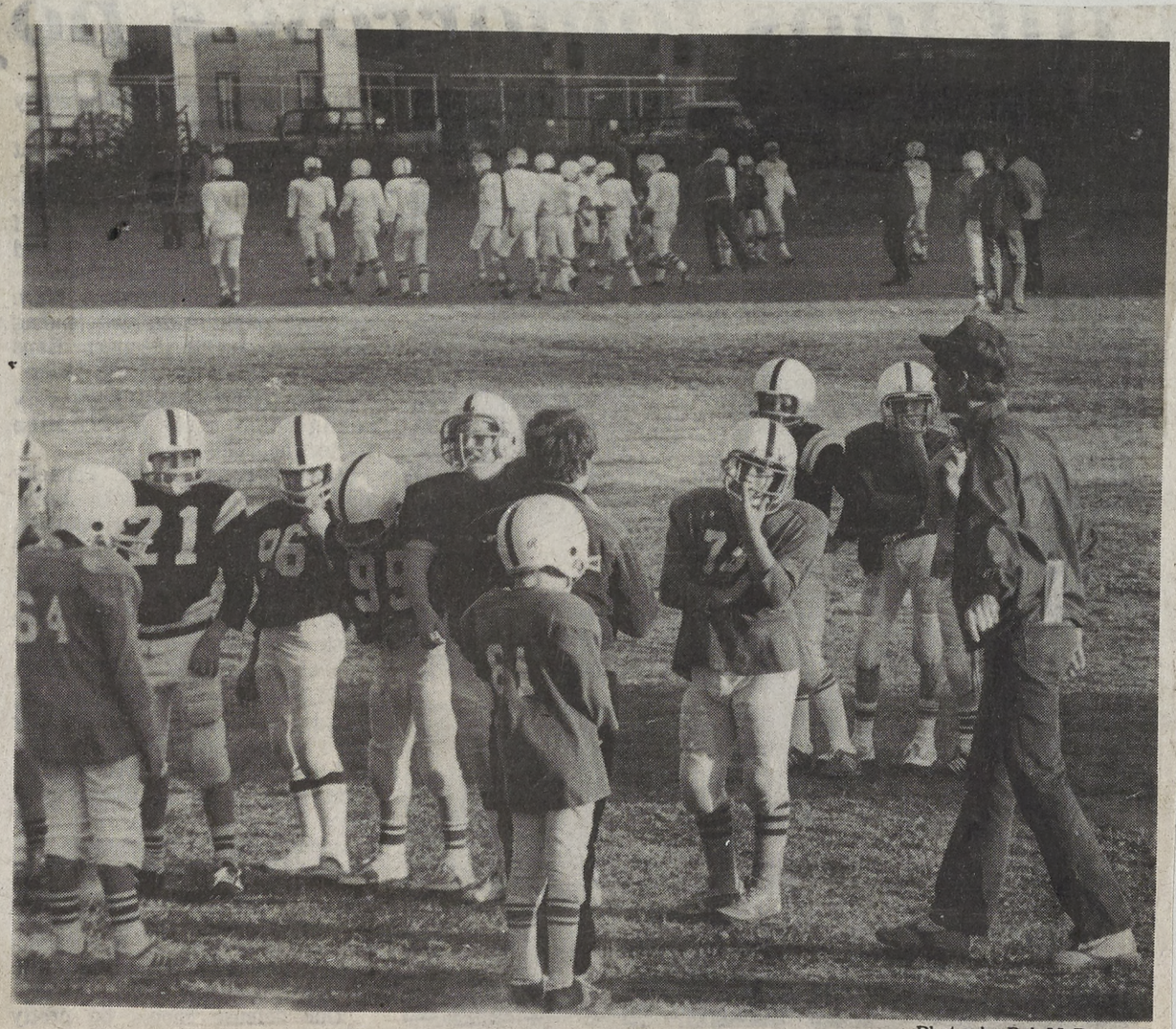
BOYS' CLUB HOCKEY: The Pittsfield Boys' Club will conduct is annual youth hockey school Oct. 5-16, with a fee of $40 for one week and $75 for two weeks.

Taconic High coach Carl Moffatt is the school director, and he will be assisted by PHS coach Don Murphy, St. Joseph's coach Mike Murphy, former University of Lowell player Bill Moffatt, former Mount Greylock High assistant coach Bill Prendergast and former North Adams State captain Dan Caritey.

Further information may be obtained by contacting school registrar Marilyn Skowron at the Boys' Club.

Thursday, Sept. 15, 1983





Photos by Bob McDonough

BUSY SPOT these days is the First Street Common, where players of all sizes are practicing for this weekend's opening games in the Pittsfield Junior Football League. The B teams open Saturday and the A teams Sunday.



Aspirants

Practice began this week on the Common for lads trying out for teams in the Pittsfield Junior Football League. As these aspirants demonstrate, not everyone is in tiptop shape as yet.



Authority Figures

Junior Football League coaches are explaining gently to their charges what they should and should not do.



Another Season

With Notre Dame Church as a backdrop, the Common presents a scene indicating that fall is in the offing.

Youth football roundup

SEP 24 1983

Giants, Browns win city openers

The defending A-Division champion Giants and the Browns scored victories Sunday in opening day games of the Pittsfield Youth Football League at Wahconah Park.

The Giants defeated the Rams, 46-0, and the Browns defeated the Lions, 30-6.

In B-Division games Saturday morning, the Giants rolled over the Rams, 54-0, and the Lions and Browns played to a 14-14 tie.

In Berkshire County Youth Football League Junior Division games Sunday, the Adams Saints defeated the North Adams Eagles, 8-0, and Dalton tripped Lanesboro, 24-8.

In Peewee Division action, the North Adams Hayden-Hoosac Cowboys blanked the Adams Jets, 26-0; Lee and Cheshire played to a 6-6 tie; Dalton powered past Lanesboro, 42-6; and South Berkshire stopped the Adams Bears, 20-0.

In Pittsfield B-Division games this morning at Reid Middle School, the Browns meet the Giants at 10 and the Rams play the Lions at 11. In A-Division tilts tomorrow afternoon at Wahconah Park, the Browns play the Giants at 12:30 and the Rams play the Lions at 2.

Berkshire County League Peewee Division games tomorrow at 1 p.m. have Lanesboro (0-2) at Adams Jets (1-1), Lee (1-0-1) at Dalton (1-1), South Berkshire (1-1) at North Adams (2-0) and Cheshire (1-0-1) at Adams Bears (0-2).

In Junior Division games immediately following the peewee contests, Lee (1-0) is at Dalton (1-1) and South Berkshire (0-1) at North Adams (1-1).

Pittsfield games

The Giants' Chucky Murphy totaled 34 points on five touchdowns on runs of five, four, 30 and 41 yards; a 33-yard pass from Eddie Nicholson; and a pair of conversion runs.

Marty Streit scored on a 45-yard punt return and added a two-point conversion. Gary Swain, who blocked a punt to set up the Giants' first touchdown, also ran in two two-pointers.

Mark Turner and Cory Patrick scored two touchdowns apiece to pace the Browns' offense. Patrick made the play of the afternoon with an 80-yard touchdown run. He added his second TD on a 25-yard sweep and also chipped in a two-point conversion.

Turner scored the first TD of the game on an eight-yard sweep. He tacked a 36-yard run and a pair of two-pointers to his total.

Kevin Bilotta scored the Lions' lone TD on a 52-yard run.

County Juniors

Troy Shafer rushed for 80 yards and scored on a four-yard run in the second quarter and Joe Eurbin hauled in the two-point pass from John Korzendorfer to ice the victory for North Adams.

In Lanesboro, Ted Davison and Dan Teichert each tallied two touchdowns, including an interception return each for a score as visiting Dalton cruised. Davison added a 30-yard touchdown run and Teichert scored from 25 yards out. Eric Day also chipped in an 18-yard scoring run for Dalton.

Lanesboro's Todd Bouchard returned the second half kickoff 80-yards for his team's only score.

County Peewees

Lee's Mike Consolati intercepted a Cheshire pass and returned it 25 yards on the last play of the game to preserve the tie.

Lee's leading rusher, Tom Viner, scored the Cougar's only touchdown on a seven-yard run. Stephen Faucher went 40 yards on a reverse to set up Aaron Stefaniko's two-yard plunge that tied the game.

After playing a scoreless tie in the first half, North Adams exploded for 14 points in the third quarter and 12 in the final session. Leo Labonte, who rushed for 48 yards on 12 carries, scored his team's first touchdown on a two-yard plunge that capped a 60-yard drive. Halfback Kurt Gamari, who chipped in 87 yards on eight totes, broke away for a 47-yard touchdown scamper late in the quarter and Labonte ran across the conversion.



Photos by Ray Lamont

BERKSHIRE COUNTY MEN Jim Guinan, left, of Lanesboro and John Codey of Pittsfield have become the first county football officials ever to be certified on the Division 1 collegiate level.

SEP 28 1983

Youth football roundup

OCT 7 1983

Unbeaten Giants roll

The Giants continued to rampage through the Pittsfield Youth Football League's A-Division last Sunday with a 60-0 defeat of the Lions. In the other A game, the Browns shut out the Rams, 22-0.

In Pittsfield B-Division games Saturday, the Giants edged the Lions, 8-0, and the Browns defeated the Rams, 16-0.

In Berkshire County Youth Football League Junior Division play, Adams and Lee remained undefeated after three games. Adams defeated Dalton, 22-6, and Lee stopped Lanesboro, 42-6.

In County Peewee Division games, undefeated North Adams blanked the Adams Bears, 20-0; Cheshire denied South Berkshire, 48-16; Lee whitewashed Lanesboro, 38-0, and the Adams Jets dropped Dalton, 20-6.

In Pittsfield B-Division games tomorrow morning at Reid Middle School, the Browns (1-1-1) play the Lions (1-1-1) at 10 and the Giants (3-0) play the Rams (0-3) at 11.

In A-Division games Sunday afternoon at Wahconah Park, the Browns (2-1) play the Lions (0-3) at 12:30 and the Giants (3-0) play the Rams (1-2) at 2.

In County Peewee games Sunday afternoon at 1, South Berkshire (1-3) is at Adams Jets (3-1) at Noel Field, North Adams (4-0) is at Lee (2-1-1) at Lee High, Dalton (2-2) is at Cheshire (3-0-1) at Hoosac Valley High and Adams Bears (0-4) are at Lanesboro (0-4) at Lanesboro School.

In Junior games immediately following the Peewee tilts, South Berkshire (0-2) is at Adams (3-0) and North Adams (2-1) is at Lee (3-0).

Pittsfield games

In the Giants' lopsided victory, Chucky Murphy scored four touchdowns on runs of 2, 6, 55 and 63 yards and the defense, unscored upon in three games, set up five touchdowns with fumble recoveries.

Gary Swain chipped in 16 points on a pair of touchdown runs and two two-point conversions. Also scoring single touchdowns were quarterback Eddie Nicholson and Marty Streit, while John Salvie ran in two conversions. Defensive standout Bob Duzlak recovered a fumble to set up Murphy's first score.

The Browns' Cory Patrick scored the first of his two touchdowns early in the game on a 19-yard sweep. Patrick later scored on a 51-yard run and Mark Turner added the two points.

The Browns' final score was set up by a defensive gem by Bill McGovern. On the opening kickoff of the second half, he stole the ball from the Rams return man and ran it back to the Rams' 40-yard line. Turner later scored on a 28-yard scamper.

County Peewees

The Adams Jets' Donato Delmolino rushed for more than 100 yards for the third straight game, scored one touchdown on a 75-yard run, added the two-point conversion and made seven tackles as a linebacker. Chris Bourdon also ran for more than 100 yards, scored on a 45-yard run and made 11 tackles from his outside linebacker spot.

John Wooster added Adams' final TD on a 10-yard run.

Lee's Tom Viner scored on runs of 16 and 21 yards and Mohamed Zabian intercepted two passes to help keep Lanesboro off the scoreboard. Lee went ahead 24-0 after the first quarter with Mike Consolati and Dave Scarpa also scoring touchdowns. Consolati and Ned Adams chipped in conversion runs and Scarpa scored a two-point safety.

Lanesboro defenders Adams Lussier and Todd Bouchard kept busy with 12 and eight tackles, respectively.

County Juniors

Jamie Bolotin's 55-yard dash to paydirt in the first quarter was Lanesboro's lone bright spot. Lee's Dave Hathaway matched Bolotin's dash with a interception return for a TD and also gathered in a two-point conversion pass.

In the second period, Lee poured on a pair of touchdowns, on runs of 16-and 14-yards, by Jason Daoust and an 11-yard run and a conversion burst by Mark Emerson.

Lee closed the scoring in the fourth period on Dan O'Neil's 25-yard tote, Mat O'Brien's conversion reception and Chuck Trombley's 1-yard bolt.

Youth football roundup

Lee, Adams Juniors stay unbeaten

Lee and Adams remained undefeated in the Berkshire County Youth Football League's Junior Division with victories Sunday. Lee defeated North Adams, 12-0, and Adams drubbed South Berkshire, 52-12.

In Peewee Division games, North Adams and Cheshire both remained unbeaten. North Adams defeated Lee, 26-12; Cheshire downed Dalton, 28-0; Adams Jets dropped South Berkshire, 22-6; and Adams Bears blanked Lanesboro, 22-0.

In Pittsfield Junior Football League A-Division games Sunday, the undefeated, unscored-on Giants beat the Rams, 38-0, and the Browns defeated the Lions, 24-6.

In Pittsfield B-Division games Saturday, the Browns edged the Lions, 8-0, and the Giants defeated the Rams, 14-0.

Adams Jets (4-1) meet Cheshire (4-0-1) at Hoosac Valley High to highlight Peewee action Sunday afternoon at 1. In other games, South Berkshire (1-4) is at Dalton (2-3) at Wahconah Regional High, North Adams (5-0) is at Lanesboro (0-5) at Lanesboro School and Adams Bears (1-4) are at Lee (2-2-1) at Lee High.

In County Junior games immediately following the Peewee games, South Berkshire (0-3) is at Dalton (1-3) and North Adams (2-2) is at Lanesboro (0-3).

In Pittsfield B-Division games tomorrow morning at the Reid Middle School, the Lions (1-2-1) play the Rams (0-4) at 10 and the Browns (2-1-1) play the Giants (4-0), who are also unscored on, at 11.

In Pittsfield A-Division games Sunday afternoon at Wahconah Park, the Lions (0-4) play the Rams (1-3) at 12:30 and the Browns (3-1) play the Giants (4-0) at 2.

County Juniors

Lee quarterback Jason Daoust threw a 64-yard scoring pass to Mat O'Brien with 32 seconds remaining in the first half and scored his team's second touchdown on a 2-yard run in the third quarter.

SPORTS

Lee's defense was led by Troy Winters with nine tackles and Chuck Trombley with eight stops. Jeff Bleau made eight tackles to lead North Adams.

County Peewees

Three Adams Jets scored touchdowns and Greg Bartlett keyed the Jets' defense with 11 tackles. Donato Delmolino rushed for more than 100 yards for the fourth consecutive week and scored a touchdown.

Also scoring six-pointers for Adams were Chris Bourdon and John Wooster. Along with Delmolino, who ran for 121 yards, Wooster (100 yards) and Bourdon (80) keyed the Jets ground game.

Jason Falcon scored a pair of touchdowns, including the game-winner on a 3-yard run in the third period, for league-leader North Adams.

After a scoreless first quarter, Shawn Duquette made the key play of the first half for North Adams when he recovered a Lee fumble with 25 seconds to play. On the next play, Falcon hauled in a 25-yard touchdown pass that made the score 14-6, North Adams.

Kurt Gamari, who rushed for 61 yards, ran four yards for North Adams's first TD earlier in the period and Dan Goodell caught a two-point conversion pass. Lee drew within 8-6 when Tom Viner ran 57-yards on Lee's first play from scrimmage after Gamari's score.

Falcon's third period TD put North Adams ahead to stay but the winners scored again early in the fourth quarter on Leo Labonte's one-yard smash. Lee drove 58 yards in six plays and capped the march with Dave Scarpa's 32-yard pass to Ned Adams. Mike Consolati ran across the two pointer.

Pittsfield games

Cory Patrick led the Browns' offense with two touchdowns on runs of 5 and 45 yards. Mark Turner scored the Browns' final touchdown from 9 yards out and also added a pair of two-point conversions.

Mark Taglieri had the lone Lions's touchdown when he went off-tackle and scampered 43 yards.

The Giants' Chucky Murphy scored three touchdowns on runs of 4, 40 and 43 yards and also added a two-point conversion. The Giants' Armand Borden set up his team's first touchdown when he blocked a punt. Three plays later, Gary Swain scored the first of his two touchdowns on a 25-yard burst up the middle. He also chipped in a pair of two-pointers. Marty Streit added one conversion run.



Battle Dress

Ready for hardnosed play, junior footballer seems confident despite somewhat oversized uniform. He's on the Common back in 1955.

130.

Youth football roundup

Giants clinch A-Division crown

SPORTS

The undefeated and unscored upon Giants clinched their fourth consecutive Pittsfield Junior Football League A-Division championship Sunday with a 34-0 victory over the Browns.

In the other Pittsfield A game, the Lions won their first game of the season by defeating the Rams, 12-6.

On Saturday morning, the Lions's B-Division team defeated the Rams, 6-0, and the unscored upon Giants' B team battled the Browns to a scoreless tie.

In Berkshire County Youth Football League Junior Division game, Dalton ran past South Berkshire, 44-0, and North Adams tripped Lanesboro, 22-8.

In County Peewee Division games, undefeated North Adams dropped Lanesboro, 38-8; once-tied Cheshire also remained unbeaten with a wild, 28-24 defeat of the Adams Jets; Lee shut out the Adams Bears, 12-0; and Dalton and South Berkshire battled to a 6-6 stalemate.

The Pittsfield league will hold its final games of the season this weekend. In Sunday afternoon's A-Division games at Wahconah Park, the Browns (3-2) play the Rams (1-4) at 12:30 and the Giants (5-0) go against the Lions (1-4) at 2.

In B-Division games Saturday morning at the Reid Middle School, the Browns (2-1-2) play the Rams (0-5) at 10 and the Giants (4-0-1) meet the Lions (2-2-1) at 11.

In County Peewee games Sunday afternoon at 1, Cheshire (5-0-1) travels to North Adams (6-0) to decide the league championship at Noel Field, Adams Jets (4-2) are at Lee (3-2-1) at Lee High, Lanesboro (0-6) is at South Berkshire (1-4-1) at Monument Mountain High and Dalton (2-3-1) is at Adams Bears (1-5) at Renfrew Field.

In the County Junior games immediately following the Peewee tilts, undefeated Lee (4-0) meets undefeated Adams (4-0) and, in a battle of winless teams (0-4), Lanesboro is at South Berkshire.

Pittsfield games

The Giants have scored 224 points in five games while not allowing one. Efforts like Bob Duzlak's 14 tackles against the Browns and Gary Swain's pair of fumble recoveries that led to touchdowns were part of the reason.

John Carmon recovered another fumble that set up the first of two short TD bursts by Swain. Marty Streit also scored on a one-yard run and Chucky Murphy threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to John Salvie and also scored on a six-yard run. Swain and Murphy also scored two point conversions.

The Lions's first score was set up in the first quarter when Todd Drury passed 16 yards to Mark Taglieri to set up Kevin Bilotta's plunge into the middle for six. In the fourth period, Taglieri ran one yard for the second TD.

The Rams scored after Joe Powell's 37-yard run set up a 17-yard pass to Mitch McKnight.

TIM CAHILL

junior football

"A boy could have four tacklers on him and be going down, but if he's got the ball and isn't flat on his back yet, the rest of the defense joins in."

That's the way it is in Junior League football in Pittsfield. Take a look in the October 23

OCT 22 1983

Berkshire Sampler

TIM CAHILL

junior football

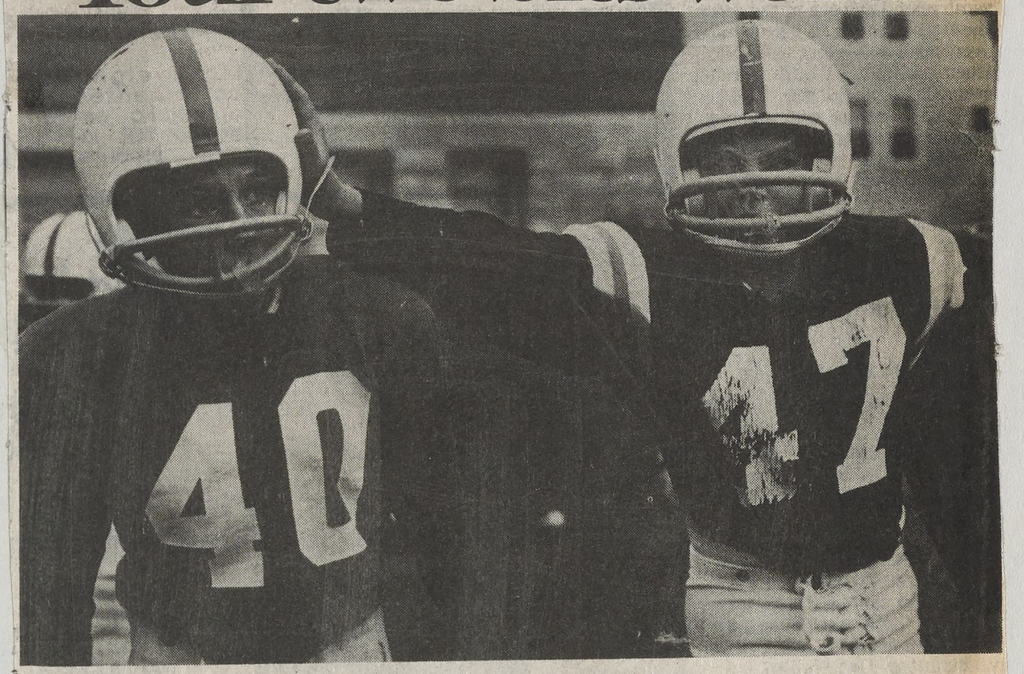
"These are the kids who still run in the wrong direction on a sweep, who bump into their linemen as they begin their pass patterns. They are funny, these little ones . . ."

Tim Cahill and his camera take a long look at Junior League football in Pittsfield. See them run in the October 23

OCT 22 1983

Berkshire Sampler

Your two bits worth



"With the younger boys, there was more confusion. These are the kids who still run in the wrong direction on a sweep, who bump into their linemen as they begin their pass patterns. They are funny, these little ones."

—Tim Cahill
takes a look
at kids' football

It used to be called Pop Warner Football but now it's Junior League. The action is the same and so are the amusing efforts to be grown up. Cahill went, saw and took pictures. There is also a look at the paper converting business and a visit to Mount Everett Regional High School where they're taking on the computer age. There are the games, the advice, the puzzles. In short, all the regular features. You get your two bits worth, and then some in the October 23

Berkshire Sampler

OCT 22 19

WAH. PARK



Susan Plageman

BULLING his way for hefty first-half yardage is St. Joseph's halfback Troy Robinson, who rushed for 162 yards and two touchdowns to lead his team to a 20-7 victory last night over Pittsfield. Making the stop for the Generals is Jeff Lewis (43).

OCT 22 1983



Joel Librizzi

CHAMPIONS for the fourth straight year in the Pittsfield Junior Football League are the Giants, who were unbeaten and unscored upon in six games. Team members are, from left to right: FRONT ROW — Neil Sprague, Marty Mayberry, Travis Borden, Eric Swanson, Jim Clark, Larry McCray, Chris Levey, Jim Salvie, Bill Chilton, Mike Penna and Chad Smith. SECOND ROW — Cliff Harris, Mike Ouelette, Lonny Martini, Mark Carnevale, Bill Duda, Scott Hunter, Todd Eddy, Reno Albertazzi, Eric Ouelette and Bob Trumbull. THIRD ROW — Eric Sprague, Bob Scott, Mike Bolduc, Chris Long, Mike Mayberry, Mike Laurin, Andy Placido, Steve Laurin, Mike Tierney and Dave Kirchner. FOURTH ROW — John Carman, Todd Wojtkowski, John Salvie, Bob Duzlak, Tom Kingston, Eddie Nicholson, Marty Streit, Gary Swain and Bob Dearstyne. BACK ROW — head coach Bill Marcel, Coach Armond Borden, Armond Borden III, Chuck Murphy, John DiNicola, Coach Chico Astore, Coach Michael Astore and Coach John Pollander.

MAR 29 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Registration for the four Pittsfield Little Leagues will begin Saturday at four locations. Registration will be from 10 to noon Saturday and Monday from 6 to 8 p.m.

Candidates for the North League will report to the Peck's Road fire station, for the South League to the Holmes Road fire station, for the East League to the Somerset Avenue fire station and for the West League to the West Housatonic Street fire station. Any candidate with any question about where to register should contact the Park Department.

Any local youngster who will be at least 9 years old on or before Aug. 1, and will not be 13 by the same date, is eligible. Each player will be assessed $5 to help defray costs of the league. The season will start May 15 and the city playoffs will begin Aug. 8.

The annual candy sale has been scheduled for Sunday, June 5.

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LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL: The East Little League has scheduled an additional registration session for new league candidates this Saturday.

The registrations will be conducted from 10 to noon at the Somerset Avenue fire station.

April 7, 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: The East Little League will conduct tryouts Saturday morning at 10 at Allendale School.

In the event of a postponement, the tryout will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Any boy or girl living in the East League area who has not registered may do so at the tryout session.

APR 21 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: The Pittsfield North Little League is seeking umpires for the coming season. Interested candidates should contact Stan Greenleaf or Donald Gleason.

APR 26 1983

Scouts to repair eight dugouts for Little Leagues

To fulfill part of the requirements for becoming an Eagle Scout, Shaun M. Risley of 50 Concord Parkway plans to paint and repair eight dugouts at four Little League fields.

Risley's project received the unanimous backing of Park Commission Monday.

In a letter to the commission, he said he had already gotten the go-ahead from the presidents of the four Little League divisions and that fellow members of Troop 20 at Sacred Heart Church would assist him.

MAY 3 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Matt Joseph drove in five runs with four singles and a double and Mark Martello had a double and three singles to lead Evergreen Realty to a 28-13 win over the Italian-American Club in the South Little League.

Winning pitcher Chris Diehl helped his own cause with a pair of hits, while Shaun O'Donnell had a triple and a single for the Italian-American Club.

In other South action, Mark Wolcott had two singles and Jonathan Sawyer was the winning pitcher as Warner Amex topped the Tank Shop by a 7-3 count. Mark Farnsworth had a pair of doubles for the losers.

Rick Premerlani banged out three hits while Fred Cook and Matt Scarfoni added two hits apiece, leading Teo's to an 18-6 triumph over City Savings Bank. John Ruscio was the winning pitcher. Dave Desnoyers' triple was the big hit of the day for the Bankers.

May 12, 1983

MAY 14 1983

Request to fix ball field is referred to park board

The City Council, boxed in by the power of precedent, shipped a request for money to repair a ball field off to the Park Commission Tuesday by invoking the standard lawyers' defense that this case is different.

The precedent was cited by At-large Councilor James R. McCaffrey, who filed the petition for $2,000 to repair fence and backstop at the Deming Park Little League field.

Two weeks earlier, he reminded his colleagues, the Council endorsed Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters's request for $1,900 to repair the minor league field at Wahconah Park. "So," he concluded, "I can't see why, two weeks later, you can't approve a similar request."

The Council's dilemma was stated by Ward 4 Councilor Mary E. Ausman, who said she wants the field repaired — but through proper channels.

She pointed out that park maintenance requests should be submitted to the Park Commission to compete for priority against needs at other parks. Saying that she should have seen the danger when the Wahconah Park money was on the agenda, she continued, "I apologize for not objecting sooner. I didn't realize these things would dribble in one at a time."

At-large Councilor Peter G. Arlos, Ward 1 Councilor John R. O'Gara and Ward 2 Councilor Kenneth G. Warren Jr. expressed support for sending the request to the Park Commission.

In answer to a question from the Council, Little League representative Edward Sherman said the proposal was submitted to Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Vincent J. Hebert last year but turned down.

O'Gara said the Wahconah field had been in terrible shape, but that during a visit to Deming he did not see holes in the fence. Warren said that since the Wahconah Park proposal came with a letter from Hebert, he assumed that one had the department's blessing.

Mayor Charles L. Smith was invited to comment. He said the Wahconah and Deming repair requests were totally dissimilar. An emergency existed at the Wahconah field, he said, because it was damaged by four-wheel-drive vehicles "tearing through the fence and tearing up the field."

The problem at Deming is a routine year-in, year-out maintenance item, he said.

* * * *

LITTLE LEAGUE: In the North League, Jim Salvie had two hits to back the four-hit pitching of Glenn Sime and lead Dave's Sporting Goods to a 12-4 win over Colt Insurance. Jennifer Klahn took the loss on the mound for Colt.

John Canning and Mike Wilk each had a pair of hits to lead the Fire Department to an 8-6 triumph over the Police. John Bassi picked up the pitching win, while Eric Ouellette had two hits for the Policemen.

Dan Roy and Jeremy Harper combined to hurl a one-hitter and Ernie Taylor had three hits offensively as the Elks edged Quality Printing 6-5. Losing pitcher John Rodick had the lone hit for the Printers.

* MAY 31 1983 *

LITTLE LEAGUE: Mark McKenna and Greg Schlick had two hits each and Nate Brown was the winning pitcher as Itam defeated Jimmy's Restaurant 10-6 in the West Little League. Shaun Townsend had three hits for Jimmy's.

In other West League action, pitcher Mitch McKnight struck out 14 and Kevin Foss had a pair of hits as Norm's Variety downed Civitan 7-3, while Chuck Sheran pitched a one-hitter and Geoff Dubiski had two doubles and a triple, leading Friendly's to a 12-2 win over the Eagles.

McKenna got credit for the pitching win and Matt Thomas had a pair of hits as Itam edged Connor Pharmacy 5-4, and Anthony Gamberoni had three doubles, pacing Jimmy's Restaurant to an 11-10 triumph over Civitan. Mike Soules had two hits for Civitan.

Dubiski had three hits and Tim Shaughnessy was the winning hurler as Friendly's topped Norm's Variety by a 13-9 count, and two doubles by Vito Umbro helped carry Connor Pharmacy to a 9-2 victory over the Eagles. Vinnie Szymanski was the winning pitcher. Andy Greenlaw had two hits for the Eagles.

McKnight had four hits including a grand slam homer and Anthony Campoli tossed a four-hitter as Norm's hammered out a 24-1 victory over the Eagles, while doubles by Shaughnessy and Derek Jones helped lift Friendly's to a 7-4 win over Civitan.

In the North League, Anton Kaufer banged out four hits as the Fire Department outslugged Quality Printing 19-14. Glenn Sime, Kollin Kozlowski and Joe Raczynski had two hits apiece to pace Dave's Sporting Goods to an 8-7 victory over the Police Department.

Rick Wendling and winning pitcher Eric Sprague had two hits each, leading Colt Insurance to a 4-3 win over the Elks despite a two-run homer by the Elks' Ernie Taylor. Sprague had a a single and a triple, with Wendling picking up the mound win, as Colt also topped the Police Department 8-7.

John Bassi and Scott Hackowicz each had a pair of hits and Kaufer earned the pitching win as the Fire Department whipped the Elks 15-2. Taylor had three hits for the losers.

Jim Salvie pitched a two-hitter and Kozlowski had a pair of hits as Dave's Sporting Goods downed Quality Printing 13-1.

MAY 24 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Evergreen Realty won three games and East Side Pizza two in recent South Little League action.

Evergreen beat Warner Amex 5-1, with Chris Diehl getting the win and hitting a double, while Mark Martello had two singles. Diehl again got the win and Martello had two singles in a 6-5 win over Burger King. Gerry Arace had a triple and single and Dave Barzottini a double and single for Burger King. Matt Joseph got the win in Evergreen's 14-5 victory over Tank Shop. Martello had a single and triple, Diehl had two doubles and Tank Shop's Paul Bresnahan had two hits.

East Side beat Stephenson Insurance 12-6, with Eddie Sherman getting the win, Matt Risley hitting a triple and double and Bryant Frazier two singles. Keith LeVardi had two hits for Stephenson. Rob Grady had 11 strikeouts in East Side's 8-6 win over City Savings Bank. Risley and Sherman had two hits each for the winners and Keith Podavini, James Wood and Jonathan Modan two apiece for CSB.

Arace was the winning pitcher and had two hits in Burger King's 7-1 win over Stephenson. Barzottini had two hits and Jim Ziter two doubles and a single, while Jason Valenti had a double and triple and Rob Mole two singles for Stephenson.

Fred Cook and Matt Scarafoni had two hits each, and John Carroll and Jason Ruscio shared the pitching in Teo's 8-7 win over Stephenson. Mole had a homer and double and Eric Gardzina and Mike Wallace two hits each for Stephenson.

Mole had another homer and Rob Meddaugh got the win in Stephenson's 4-3 win over Tank Shop. Kevin Holmes had two doubles and a single for Tank Shop.

Winning pitcher Podavini had a homer and five RBI in CSB's 17-1 win over Italian American Club. Dave Desnoyers had a double, two singles and six RBI.

May 25, 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: In Pittsfield East Little League, Steve Little had two home runs, a double and knocked in five runs, leading Northeast Carpets to a 14-0 win over Besse-Clarke. Shane Powers also contributed three hits and two RBI to the Carpets' attack, while Pat Mitchell was the winning pitcher.

Robbie Coco struck out 14 in four innings and had a single and a homer offensively as the GE Credit Union edged Burger Chef 7-6. Jim Keefner had a double and a triple for Burger.

Little had three singles and a pair of RBI as Northeast Carpets downed Moldmaster by a 6-1 count, while Gary Miles had three hits as Pittsfield Pipers defeated Moldmaster 4-3. Kris Knutson's two-out, sixth-inning single was the game-winning hit.

John DiMattia had a double, two singles and a pair of RBI as GE Credit Union overcame a 4-0 deficit and beat Northeast Carpets 9-7, while Gary Miles and Brian Lefaive each had three singles and a double as Pittsfield Pipers hammered Besse-Clarke 17-0.

* * * *

May 26, 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Chad Mazza knocked in five runs with a home run, a double and a single as the Pittsfield Pipers downed Burger Chef 19-4 in the Pittsfield East Little League.

Brian Lefaive struck out seven while hurling three shutout innings to pick up the victory, while John Tynan had a two of the four hits for Burger Chef.

May 27, 1983

Lose some copy?

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Whatever happened to Little League coverage?

Is *The Berkshire Eagle* so involved in classified ads and display advertising that it forgets Pittsfield's Little League? There was no coverage for opening day ceremonies, nor were the new players listed in the paper as they were in previous years.

The parents of Little Leaguers are tired of excuses, like not enough room. It seems the local men's softball leagues get top billing. Are they more important than Pittsfield's youth?

Apparently, sports editor Bob McDonough doesn't consider Little League "local sports." Isn't this his job? We would like some answers and adequate coverage for these players, who well deserve it.

SANDRA KINNAS
36 Dutchess Ave.
Pittsfield

MAY 28 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Eddie Sherman had three singles and a triple while Bryant Frazier banged out a pair of doubles, leading East Side Pizza to a 16-2 romp over the Italian-American Club in the South Little League. Brandon Krupka was the winning pitcher. Chris Speranzo had a single and a double for the Italian-American Club.

In other South action, Jim Ziter had two singles and a double and Scott Ziter added a pair of hits as Burger King downed Virgilio Construction 11-6. Brendan Phair had two singles for Virgilio's.

Keith Podavini had a double and a home run while Jonathan Modan added three hits as City Savings Bank edged Evergreen Realty 5-4, while Keith LeVardi, Eric Gardzina and Jason Valenti had two hits each to power Stevenson Insurance to a 6-3 win over Warner Amex.

Paul Bresnahan was the winning pitcher and Dan Olsen had a pair of hits as Tank Shop blanked Virgilio's 7-0, while Matt Scarfoni had three doubles, a single and six RBI in leading Teo's to a 34-2 over the Italian-American Club. Fred Young added three hits for Teo's, while Mike Bolduc had two hits for the losers.

Winning pitcher Jonathan Modan had seven strikeouts and Keith Podavini pounded out a double and two singles as City Savings defeated Warner Amex 8-3.

June 1, 1983

Candy sale set Sunday

6/2/83

CANDY SALE: The Pittsfield Little League has scheduled its annual candy sale for Sunday. Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., uniformed members of all four of the city's leagues will travel door-to-door selling candy bars for $1 to raise money to support the league, which has 29 teams and over 400 players.

LITTLE LEAGUE: In East Little League play, Besse-Clarke beat Burger Chef 11-1, Northeast Carpets topped Pittsfield Pipers 14-7 and G.E. Credit Union nipped Moldmaster 3-2.

Shaun Thornton stroked two singles and drove in two runs, and winning pitcher Gennaro Aulisio racked up three perfect innings as Besse-Clarke breezed. Eric Taylor led Burger Chef with two singles.

Northeast Carpets, sparked by Dan Stracuzzi's three singles, generated a 14-hit attack to blow away the Pipers. Kris Knutson and Tim Donovan each had a triple and single to pace the Pipers. Northeast's Steve Little struck out 11 batters to take the win.

G.E. Credit Union rallied for two runs in the top of the sixth inning to

JUN 4 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Matt Joseph was the winning pitcher and helped his own cause with a pair of singles as Evergreen Realty downed Teo's 9-3 in the South Little League. Matt Scarfoni had a pair of hits and John Carroll had a double for Teo's.

Eddie Sherman tossed a one-hitter and racked up 11 strikeouts as East Side Pizza blanked Warner Amex 15-0. Rob Dondi had a single, triple and three RBI, while Mike Mazzeo knocked in two runs with a pair of singles. Mark Wolcott had the lone hit for Warner's.

Winning pitcher Keith Podavini struck out 12 and banged out a home run and two singles as City Savings Bank downed Stevenson's 12-1. Steve Sykes also helped the CSB cause with two singles, a double and three RBI.

June 6, 1983

Youth baseball roundup

JUN 15 1983

Coco's slam sparks Credit Union

LITTLE LEAGUE: Robbie Coco belted a grand slam home run to provide the margin of victory as GE Employees Credit Union downed Moldmaster 6-2 in the East Little League. Shaun Kirby was the winning pitcher, while Dan Armstrong had a single and a double for the losers.

In other East League action, winning pitcher Chad Mazza helped his own cause with a single and a triple while Kris Knutson had a pair of doubles and two RBI as the Pittsfield Pipers topped Northeast Carpets 17-11. Steve Little and Tom Sloan both homered for the losers.

Mazza also belted two homers — one a grand slam — and knocked in a total of seven runs as the Pipers downed Burger Chef 13-4. Scott Taylor added three hits and Tim Donovan had a pair of doubles for the Pipers, while Randy Kinnas belted a home run for Burger Chef.

Monoo Singh had an RBI triple and emerged as the winning pitcher as Moldmaster hammered Burger Chef 15-0.

In the West League, Paul Martino cracked three hits — one a home run — to propel Norm's to a 10-7 victory over Itam.

Anthony Campoli pitched the win for Norm's, while Nate Brown led Itam's offense with three hits.

In other West League games, Civitan plastered the Eagles 14-1 and 7-2, Itam downed Jimmy's 8-5 and Jimmy's bested Friendly's 10-3. Erik Reddington clubbed a double and triple in Civitan's 14-1 victory in support of winning pitcher Eric Layden. Shaun Quinlan and Andy Greenlaw had the Eagles' only hits. In its 7-2 win, Civitan benefited from a double and triple by Chris Ardia and the winning pitching of Mike Soules. Jamie Greenlaw and Jonathan Kane were the only Eagles to get hits.

Tom Curtis rapped two hits to lead Itam past Jimmy's, with Mark McKenna picking up the pitching win. Anthony Gamberoni had two hits for Jimmy's.

Mark Sowalsky keyed Jimmy's win over Friendly's with two hits, as hurler Shaun Godfrey contributed a winning effort. Geoff Dubiski and Joe Carr hammered three hits each for Friendly's.

LITTLE LEAGUE: In the East Little League, G.E. Credit Union edged Burger Chef 5-4, Pittsfield Pipers blanked the Credit Union 3-0 and Moldmaster clubbed Besse-Clarke 16-2.

Mike Carnevale had two hits, including a double that drove in two runs during a three-run fifth that led the Credit Union to its come-from-behind win. Jim Keefner homered and Todd Beals drove in two runs for Burger Chef. Steve Coco got the win and Randy Kinnas the loss.

Tim Donovan had three hits, including the game winner during a three-run third inning for the Pipers. Mike Carnevale had two hits for the Credit Union. Gary Miles was the winner and Shaun Kirby the loser.

Doug Armstrong had a single, two triples and six RBI to lead Moldmaster's 13-hit attack. Jim O'Brien added a triple, two singles and three RBI, and Steve Yuill had two singles. Gary Traversa had a double for Besse-Clarke. Pete Lawlor got the win and Scott Perkins the loss.

In the North League, Dave's Sporting Goods posted three recent wins, 7-4 over the Elks, 21-4 over Quality Printing and 5-3 over the Police Department. Todd Hould got the win and Scott Hunter and Earnie Taylor had two hits each in a losing cause for the Elks. Hould and winning pitcher Jim Salvie had three hits each and Kollin Kozlowski homered in the win over Quality. Shaun Aitken took the loss and had two hits. Salvie and Kozlowski each had two hits and Hould got the win against the Police. Mike Penna had three hits for the Police.

Anton Kaufer, Mike Wilk and John Canning had two hits each to lead the Fire Department past Colt Insurance 6-3. John Bassi got the win. Scott McCauley had two hits and Rick Wendling took the loss for Colt.

Winning pitcher Mike Murray had two hits to lead Quality past the Police 7-6. Mike Penna had two hits and Darren Colwell took the loss for the Police.

Pete Duquette was the winner and Jeremy Harper had two hits as the Elks beat the Fire Department 5-2. Mike Wilk had two hits and Kaufer took the loss for the Fire Department.

Penna and winning pitcher Marty Mayberry had two hits each to lead the Police past Colt 8-5. Eric Sprague took the loss and had two hits. Scott McCauley had a single and homer in a losing effort.

Winning pitcher Wendling, McCauley, Sprague and Ed Murray had two hits each as Colt blasted the Elks 20-3. Pete Duquette took the loss.

JUN 8 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Brian Lefaive had two singles, two doubles and three RBI to help lead Pittsfield Pipers to a 20-4 romp over Besse-Clarke in the East Little League.

Winning pitcher Chad Mazza helped his own cause with three singles, a triple and six RBI, while Scott Perkins had a double and knocked in a run for Besse's.

In other East League action, Pete Lalor had three hits, good for three RBI, and Dan Armstrong added a pair of singles as Moldmaster downed Northeast Carpets 9-8 in eight innings. Pat Mitchell had a home run and a pair of singles for Northeast, and Tom Sloan knocked in three runs with two doubles and a triple. Moldmaster rallied from an 8-3 deficit to tie it 8-8 in the sixth and won it on an Armstrong RBI single in the eighth.

JUN 10 1983

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LITTLE LEAGUE: The Fire Department posted two recent North Little League victories, 21-5 over Quality Printing and 7-4 over Dave's Sporting Goods, handing Dave's its first loss.

Anton Kaufer had two singles, a double and triple to lead the win over Quality Printing, with Mike Wilk adding three singles and John Bassi getting the win. Bill Brown took the loss. Wilk and Dave Dickhout had two hits each to back Kaufer's pitching in the win over Dave's. Marco Scalise and losing pitcher Todd Hould had two hits each for Dave's.

Winning pitcher Eric Sprague hit a homer and single to lead Colt Insurance to a 7-2 win over Quality. John Rodick took the loss.

Eric Ouellette had two doubles and winning pitcher Marty Mayberry added two hits to lift the Police Department past the Elks 8-2.

JUN 14 1983

East Side clinches first half

LITTLE LEAGUE: Matt Risley clouted two doubles and a single to drive in four runs and boost East Side Pizza to a 7-0 shutout win over Tank Shop in a South Little League game Tuesday. In winning, East Side captured the league's first-half championship with an 8-1 record.

In other recent league games, Warner Amex blanked Italian American Club (IAC) 15-0, Stevenson Insurance blitzed IAC 22-2, Virgilio's beat City Savings Bank 8-6 and Warner Amex 7-6, Burger King downed IAC 12-9 and Tank Shop 7-1, City Savings Bank drubbed Tank Shop 10-1, Teo's edged Burger King 4-3 and Evergreen Realty tripped Stevenson 4-1.

Rob Grady and Eddie Sherman combined to pitch a winning game for East Side, while Tank Shop's Brian Berger had a double to lead the losers.

Winning pitcher John Sawyer racked up eight strikeouts and helped himself with two singles as Warner breezed past IAC. Mike Phelps had IAC's only hit.

Stevenson's Rob Mole drove in five runs with four hits (one a home run), and teammate Mike Borsello smashed five hits to score five more runs to bury IAC. Shaun O'Donnell clubbed a triple for IAC.

Chris Kearns banged out three hits and Pete Montesanti had three RBI on two hits as Virgilio's stopped City Savings. Brendan Phair was the winning pitcher. John Modan and Dave Desnoyers cracked two hits apiece for CSB.

Phair singled and doubled and teammate Brian Maloney tripled to lead Virgilio's past Warner Amex. Kearns took the pitching victory.

Dave Barzontini crashed a home run and two doubles to spark Burger King's win over IAC. Shaun O'Donnell paced the losers with two singles.

Winning pitcher Keith Podavini clubbed a home run and two singles, and Dave Desnoyers pounded out three hits as City Savings torpedoed Tank Shop. Brian Berger paced the losers with a double.

John Carroll and Matt Scarfoni collaborated for a pitching victory, and Scarfoni stung two singles and a double as Teo's outscored Burger King. Jim Zeter, Barzontini and Jerry Arace each had two singles for the losers.

A triple by Chris Hathaway lifted Stevenson past Evergreen, as Chris Diehl picked up the pitching win. Jim Menin clouted three singles to lead Stevenson.

Arace and winning pitcher Zeter each rapped two singles to key Burger King's triumph over Tank Shop. Kevin Holmes and Dan Olsen sparked the Tankers with two hits each.

JUN 17 1983

Youth baseball roundup

JUN 18 1983

McKnight's 1-hitter stymies Civitan, 7-1

LITTLE LEAGUE: Mitch McKnight twirled a one-hitter and struck out 16 batters to pitch Norm's to a 7-1 victory over Civitan in recent West Little League action.

McKnight went 4-for-4 at the plate, and teammate Mike O'Toole banged out two hits for Norm's. Eric Layden rapped Civitan's sole hit of the game.

In other league games, Itam downed Connor Pharmacy 13-8 and Jimmy's clawed the Eagles 16-4.

Terry Werth and Tommy Curtis each ripped doubles for Itam, while Mike Sukiennik cracked three hits for Connor.

Tom Harper pitched the victory for Jimmy's, with teammates Steve DeGregorio and Anthony Gamberoni contributing four hits and a home run, respectively. Bill Berryman had two doubles for the Eagles.

spur Berkshire Marine to 8-0 whitewashing of Pittsfield Sporting Goods. Mike Conuel hammered two hits for Pittsfield.

Pittsfield bounced back with a 13-6 win over the Lions Club, as Marc Carpenter led the way with four hits including a grand slam homer. Jeanne Manion crashed a home run for the Lions.

Steve Lussier and Brian Rue each cracked one hit and combined with teammate Adam Fields to pitch UE Local to a narrow, 9-8 victory over Randall's Trophy Shop. Tony Hoisington and Aaron Carmon collaborated for the pitching win. Renee Ancora pounded out a double for the losers.

JUN 15 1983

REGISTRATION FOR PARKS DEPT. SUMMER SOCCER STILL BEING ACCEPTED

Team Ages 7-9, 10-12 and 13-15

Contact: PETER LARKIN, 443-1686 or AL BELANGER, 442-6661

Coaches are urgently needed!!!

Season begins June 20th

LITTLE LEAGUE: Jim Salvie, Todd Hould and Eric Mineau banged out three hits apiece and Glenn Sime was the winning pitcher as first-half champion Dave's Sporting Goods downed the Elks 26-10 in the North Little League.

Jeremy Harper had three hits — one of them a grand slam home run — for the Elks.

Dave's won the first-half title with a record of 8-2, while Colt Insurance and the Fire Department placed second with 7-3 marks.

Colt defeated Dave's by a 9-5 count, as Sean Wiegand and Scott McCauley had two hits apiece and Eric Sprague picked up the pitching win. One of McCauley's hits was a home run.

Colt also posted a 7-1 win over the Fire Department, as winning pitcher Rick Wendling helped his own cause with three hits, while the Firemen, in turn, downed the Police Department by a 15-9 count. Anton Kaufer had three hits and earned the pitching win for the winners, while Marty Mayberry, Mike Penna and Eric Ouellette had two hits each for the Policemen.

Sean Kent had three hits and Chris Groves was the winning pitcher as the Police Department topped Quality Printing 12-6. Bill Brown and John Rodick had two hits apiece for the Printers.

Ernie Taylor cracked a game-winning two-run homer and Scott Hunter had three hits as the Elks downed Quality Printing 9-7. Winning pitcher Jeremy Harper also helped his own cause with a pair of hits. Roy Butler took the loss for Quality Printing.

In the East League, Pittsfield Pipers wrapped up the first-half championship by scoring an 11-2 win over Moldmaster. Gary Miles led the Pipers with a double, a home run and three RBI while Tim Donovan knocked in a pair of runs with a single and a homer. Chad Mazza was the winning pitcher.

The Pipers won the title with a first-half record of 9-2. GE Credit Union and Northeast Carpets tied for the second spot with identical 7-3 marks.

In other East action, Pat Mitchell, Steve Little and Tom Sloan all belted homers as Northeast Carpets blanked Besse-Clarke 7-0. Mitchell and Little combined to pitch a one-hitter, yielding only a first-inning double by Shaun Thornton.

Randy Kinnas pitched a four-hitter and had three hits including a grand slam as Burger Chef downed Besse-Clarke 16-0. John Tynan also helped the Burger Chef attack with a single, a homer and three RBI.

In the West League, winning pitcher Eric Layden and Erik Reddington combined for seven hits and seven RBI to lead Civitan to a 17-6 win over Connor Pharmacy. Mike Sukiennik was 3-for-3 for Connor.

Connor rebounded to beat Norm's 11-6 in extra innings, with Dennis Shaw and Scott Sykes pitching. Vinnie Syzmanski had three hits for Connor and Shaun Murphy and Bob Bair two hits each for Norm's.

Friendly also split two West games, beating the Eagles 8-6 and falling to Itam 14-12. Winning pitcher Joe Carr had three hits and Geoff Dubiski had three hits, including a homer, in Friendly's win. Shaun Quinlan had three hits for the Eagles.

Winning pitcher Corie Salvi went 4-for-4 to lead Itam, with Mark McKenna, Nate Brown, Greg Schlick and Matt Thomas adding three hits each. Dubiski and Tim Shaunessy combined for seven hits, three singles, two doubles and two triples for Friendly.

JUN 22 1983

WEST LITTLE LEAGUE: Shaun Murphy turned in a 4-for-4 performance at the plate to boost Norm's Variety to a 13-4 rout of Itam in recent West Little League play.

In other league games, Jimmy's hammered Connor Pharmacy 15-5 and Civitan downed Itam 11-9.

Mitchell McKnight pitched Norm's to victory over Itam, while Nate Brown stroked two hits for the losers.

Stefan Townsend and Pete Garivaltis each rang out four hits to pace Jimmy's win over the Pharmacy. Mike Sukiennik battered two hits — one a home run — to lead the losers. Shaun Godfrey was the winning pitcher.

Eric Layden rapped two hits, and Chris Ardia posted a pitching win in leading Civitan past Itam. Brown, Tommy Curtis and Corie Salvie each blasted two hits for Itam.

JUN 25 1983

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NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE: Kolin Kozlowski slammed a three-run homer and teammate Mike Brunell stroked two hits to propel Dave's Sporting Goods to an 11-3 rout of Quality Printing in recent North Little League action.

In other league games, Dave's made it two straight with a 14-8 victory over Police Department, Colt Insurance notched 12-2 and 19-8 wins respectively over the Police and the Elks, and the Fire Department split a pair of games, beating Quality Printing 13-4 and losing 12-6 to the Elks.

Dave's Tim Salvie pitched the victory over Quality's Shaun Aitken. Mike Murray paced the losers with two hits.

Salvie and winning pitcher Todd Hould each banged out two hits to power Dave's past the Police. Mike Penna cracked two hits in a losing cause, and Billy Coe took the loss.

Two hits each by Rick Wendling, Scott McCauley and Dom Giardina sparked Colt's triumph over the Police. Wendling notched the pitching win over Darren Colwell. Penna paced the Police with two hits.

Wendling clubbed three hits, and teammates Brian Bordeau, Heil Sprague and Steve Poneck stung two each as Colt drubbed the Elks. Eric Sprague was credited with the win, and Pete Duquette was tabbed with the loss. Ernie Taylor had two hits for the losers.

Scott Halkowitz's two hits lifted Fire Department over Quality. John Bassi earned the pitching victory, and Bill Brown suffered the loss.

Jeremy Harper and Ernie Taylor smashed three hits each as the Elks smothered the Fire Department. Harper, the winning pitcher, helped himself with a three-run homer. Mike Wilk socked three hits, one a home run, and teammate Shawn Keegan clouted two hits for the losers. Anton Kaufen absorbed the loss.

JUN 28 1983

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LITTLE LEAGUE: Nate Brown and Matt Thomas banged out three hits apiece as Itam downed the Eagles 16-12 in a West Little League game at Clapp Park.

Bill Beryman and Tim Cronin combined for four hits and five RBI for the Eagles.

In the North League, David Eddy and Scott Hunter smashed three hits each to led the Elks to a 15-4 victory over the Police Department. Pete Duquette was the winning pitcher. Mike Penna paced the losers with two hits.

Scott Halkowicz had four hits and Anton Kaufer, Mike Wilk and John Canning added three apiece to boost the Fire Department to a 20-7 rout of Dave's Sporting Goods. Among Kaufer's and Canning's three hits was one home run each. John Bassi notched the pitching victory. Kolin Kozlowski had four hits for the losers.

Rick Wendling cracked three hits to lead Colt Insurance to an 11-5 triumph over Quality Printing. Scott Gaudette was the winning pitcher. John Rodick had two hits for the losers.

JUN 30 1983

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LITTLE LEAGUE: Shutouts were the order of the day in recent South Little League action, as Stevenson Insurance's Jim Menin blanked Teo's 10-0 and Dave Barzottini and Jerry Arace collaborated to help Burger King blank Evergreen Realty 7-0.

Menin and Dave Harte each had a double and single, and Keith LeVardi and Eric Gardzina had two hits each in Stevenson's win. Matt Gardzina added a triple.

Arace belted a homer and single, and Barzottini had a double to back up their shared mound effort for Burger King.

Warner Amex defeated Virgilio's 7-2, as Scott Schultz and Mark Wolcott each had a double and single, and Jonathan Sawyer added two singles. Brian Maloney had three hits in a losing cause.

Brandon Krupka and Mike Mazzeo shared the pitching win as East Side blasted the Italian American Club 18-2. Matt Risley had two doubles and a single, Rob Grady had two doubles and Brendan Collins and Eddie Sherman had two singles each in the win. Patrick Hayes and Chris Speranzo had two singles each for the losing side.

Winning pitcher Keith Podavini struck out 12, and Eric Swanson's second single of the game drove in the winning run in the sixth inning as City Savings Bank edged Burger King 3-2.

JUL 7 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Chris Ardia and Eric Layden each hammered four hits to spur Civitan to a 9-8 victory over Connor's Pharmacy in recent West Little League play.

Vinnie Syzmanski and Mike Sukiennik each roped a home run for Connor's in a losing effort. Civitan's Mike Soules claimed the pitching decision.

In other league games, Norm's Variety derailed Friendly's 7-3, and Jimmy's slipped past Itam 4-3.

Doubles by winning pitcher Mitchell McKnight and teammates Bob Bair, Paul Martino and Chris Micelli sparked the Norman conquest. Joe Carr, Geoff Dubiski, Derrick Jones and Chuck Sheran collected Friendly's four hits.

Anthony Gamberoni and J.R. Rand each unleashed a double and a single to pace Jimmy's win over Itam. Greg Schlich and Tommy Curtis clouted two hits apiece for the losers. Shaun Godfrey was the winning pitcher.

In the East Little League, Gary Miles clubbed a grand-slam home run, a single and a double and drove in six runs as Pittfield Pipers shattered Moldmaster 16-4.

In other league games, Burger Chef was alternately roasted 12-2 by Northeast Carpet, grilled 15-3 by Mold Master and seared 8-6 by Besse-Clarke. The Pipers, meanwhile, overdrew the G.E. Credit Union 6-5.

Winning pitcher Chad Mazza stung three singles in support of Miles' stellar effort as the Pipers beat the Moldmen. Pete Lalor led Mold Masters' six-hit attack with three doubles and 2 RBI. Jim O'Brien suffered the loss.

Another winning hurler, Pat Mitchell, smashed three doubles and drove in three runs as Northeast breezed. Eric Taylor had two singles and losing pitcher Randy Kinnas added a triple to account for Burger Chef's three hits on the day.

Monoo Singh throttled the Burgers on two hits to pick up the pitching win, and Don Armstrong muscled three singles as Mold Master coasted. John Tynan singled twice for the Chefmen. Steve Renderman was tabbed with the loss.

Despite having only two hits, Besse-Clarke triumphed on the strength of singles by Dave Viale and Matt Madden and the three-hit pitching of Randy Bonito. John Tynan stroked a double for the losers.

Tim Donovan punched out two singles to lead the Pipers past GE, despite a 10-strikeout performance by losing pitcher Robbie Coco. Gary Miles notched the pitching win.

July 2, 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: Alan Reynolds knocked in four runs with two singles and a triple and raced home with the winning run on a fifth-inning error to give the league champion Egremont Indians a 16-15 win over the Kiwanis Little League all-stars in the annual all-star game yesterday in Sheffield.

The game annually pits the league's champion against an all-star team made up of players from the loop's other five teams. The league comprises three teams from Sheffield and one each from Egremont, Monterey and Mill River.

Charlie Kinsley was the winning pitcher for the Indians, while Burton Burkholder and Scott Bartzch each belted a three-run homer for the all-stars.

July 11, 1983

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SOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE: Matt Risley and Eddie Sherman combined for two homers and nine RBI as East Side Pizza knocked off Evergreen Realty 13-5 in recent South Little League action. Risley had five RBI, Sherman four, and each homered to support winning pitcher Rob Grady. Matt Joseph had four hits for Evergreen.

Eric Gardzina had four hits and Kathy Schilling and Jon Stickney three apiece to lead hard-hitting Stevenson Insurance to a 23-5 win over Virgilio's. Jason Valenti and Mike Wallace shared the mound duties, and Keith LeVardi and Mike Borsello each had a double and single. Brian Maloney had three hits for Virgilio's.

Winning pitcher Chris Roussin and teammates John Colwell and Rick Premerlani had two hits apiece as Teo's eked out a 13-12 victory over Warner Amex. Shaun Heimann had a triple and Kevin Durfee two singles for Warner.

Mike Bolduc and Kevin Boyle shared the mound duties and Shaun O'Donnell had three hits as the Italian American Club edged Warner Amex 8-7. Mark Wolcott and Jonathan Sawyer had two hits each for Warner.

The South League has also announced its all-star team, which will be coached by Matt Stracuzzi and his assistant Brian Jones. All-stars are Keith Podavini of City Savings Bank; Jerry Arace, Dave Barzottini and Jim Ziter of Burger King; Matt Scarafoni and John Carroll of Teo's; Chris Kearns of Virgilio's; Risley, Grady and Sherman from East Side Pizza; Brian Berger of Tank Shop; Gardzina and Rob Mole of Stevenson and Chris Diehl of Evergreen.

July 12, 1983

Youth baseball

July 12, 1983-

McKnight strikes out 16 in West League 1-hitter

WEST LITTLE LEAGUE: Norm's posted two recent high-scoring wins in the West Little League, 15-1 over Civitan and 11-8 over Connor Pharmacy.

Mitch McKnight was the winning pitcher in both games, firing a one-hitter with 16 strikeouts against Civitan. McKnight and Bob Bair had three hits each for Norm's, and Jeff Contenta had Civitan's only hit. Anthony Campoli, Chris Michelli and Shaun Murphy each had two hits in the other win, and Robert Fabino and Mike Sukiennik two apiece for Connor.

Civitan earlier beat Itam 5-3, as Mike Soules had three hits, including a home run. Chris Ardia got the win, and Greg Schlick had a triple for Itam.

Winning pitcher Shaun Godfrey and Anthony Gamberoni had two hits each to lead Jimmy's to a 20-3 win over the Eagles. Shaun Quinlan had three of the Eagles' four hits.

Geoff Dubiski had a big night for Friendly, striking out 15 batters and driving in five runs with four hits in a 13-5 win over Connor. Tim Shaughnessy had three hits for the winners, and Vinnie Syzmanski had two for Connor.

Three team for no-hitter in South LL

SOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE: Pitchers Rob Grady, Eddie Sherman and Brandon Krupka combined to hurl a no-hit, no-run game in the Pittsfield South Little League as their East Side Pizza team downed Warner Amex 11-0.

Matt Risley led East Side's attack with a pair of doubles, while Sherman contributed a single and a triple and Dan Elias added two singles.

In other South League action, Sherman had a two-run double and Risley knocked in five runs as East Side also downed Tank Shop 16-8. Dan Olsen had three hits and three RBI for Tank Shop.

Matt Joseph was the winning pitcher, Brian Diehl had two hits and Mike Filiault added a single and a double as Evergreen Realty topped Teo's 7-3. John Carroll had three doubles for Teo's.

Jonathan Modan tossed a one-hitter and Steve Sykes had three hits and two RBI to help boost City Savings over the Tank Shop by a 10-1 count. Keith Podavini had a homer and two singles for the Bankers.

Winning pitcher Rob Mole struck out 11 and Mike Borsello singled in the game-winning run as Stevenson Insurance edged City Savings 5-4. Eric Gardzina had a single and a double for Stevenson's, with Jeff Walger pounding out two doubles for City Savings.

Winning pitcher Chris Kearns helped his own cause with three hits and three RBI while Brendan Phair knocked in four runs with a double and a triple as Virgilio's hammered the Italian-American Club 26-0.

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NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE: In the North League, Ernie Taylor had five hits including a home run and Scott Hunter added three hits as the Elks downed the Police Department 16-5.

Neil Sprague was the winning hurler and Eric Sprague banged out four hits, leading Colt Insurance past Quality Printing 14-3. Rick Wendling and Jennifer Klahn added two hits each for Colt, while John Rodick had two hits for the Printers.

Todd Hould struck out 12 while pitching a two-hitter and Kolin Kozlowski belted a home run as Dave's Sporting Goods topped the Fire Department 16-1. Mike Wick had both hits for the Firemen.

John Bassi had a pair of hits and Anton Kaufer picked up the pitching win as the Fire Department defeated the Elks 10-4, while Klahn had three hits and Wendling earned the mound win as Colt Insurance topped the Police Department 13-1. Dom Giardina and Ed Murray also helped the Colt cause with two hits apiece.

Marco Scalise had a pair of hits and Jim Salvie was the mound winner as Dave's Sporting Goods topped Quality Printing 12-9. Mark Ferdyn and Jeremy Squires had two hits each for the Printers.

July 13, 1983

County LL tourney opens with 2 games slated for tonight

Two first-round games tonight will kick off the 1983 Berkshire County Little League baseball all-star tournament.

In tonight's action, defending county champion Dalton-Hinsdale-Windsor will open defense of its crown with a game against North Adams East at the Hinsdale Little League field. The game will mark the first time the North Adams team has ever played in the tournament.

In tonight's other contest, the Adams all-stars will face the Lee all-stars at Lee. Game times at both sites are set for 6 p.m.

The winners of tonight's games will earn berths in Wednesday's quarterfinals, when the Dalton-North Adams winner will play at the winner of the Lee-Adams game. In Wednesday's other quarterfinal tilts, Pittsfield West will face Pittsfield East at the Benedict Road field, Pittsfield South will meet Pittsfield North at the Brown Street field, and Williamstown will be at Great Barrington.

The semifinals are slated for Friday, with the Berkshire County championship game set for next Monday. All Little League all-star play is run on a single-elimination format, and all county tournament games are set for 6 p.m.

July 18, 1983

Carr sparks Friendly's to West LL win

WEST LITTLE LEAGUE: Joe Carr went 4-for-4 while teammates Chuck Sheran and Derrick Jones added three hits apiece as Friendly's downed Jimmy's Restaurant 15-3 in West Little League action at Clapp Park. Bernie Godfrey had two hits and Anthony Gamberoni belted a home run for Jimmy's.

Winning pitcher Mark McKenna helped his own cause by banging out three hits while Matt Thomas, Nate Brown and Greg Schlich added two safeties each as Itam routed Norm's Variety 14-1. Paul Martino had two hits for Norm's.

Tim Shaughnessy pounded out three hits and also picked up the pitching win as Friendly's hammered the Eagles 17-2. Jones and Geoff also had three hits each for the winners. Andy Greenlaw had a pair of hits for the Eagles.

Eric Layden pitched a four-hitter and Erik Reddington had a pair of hits as Civitan topped the Eagles 10-5.

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SOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE: The Pittsfield South Little League has named its roster for the Berkshire County all-star tournament. The South stars will be coached by Matt Stracuzzi, while Brian Jones will act as assistant.

Players on tha all-star squad include Keith Podavini of City Savings Bank, Jerry Arace, Dave Barzottini and Jim Ziter of Burger King, Matt Scarafoni and John Carroll of Teo's, Chris Kearns of Virgilio's, Matt Risley, Rob Grady and Eddie Sherman of East Side Pizza, Brian Berger of Tank Shop, Rob Mole of Stevenson's Insurance and Chris Diehl of Evergreen Realty.

In regular-season South League action, Carroll had two doubles and a single and Scarafoni added three hits as Teo's hammered out a 21-1 decision over Tank Shop. Chris Roussen and Rick Premerlani combined to pitch a one-hitter for Teo's. Tank Shop's only hit was a home run by Kevin Holmes.

Keith Levardi was the winning pitcher and Jim Menin had two singles and a double as Stevenson's Insurance downed the Italian-American Club 12-4.

Bob Barzottini had the game-winning hit — a two-run double — as Burger King edged East Side Pizza by a 3-1 count, while Mark Wolcott had a single and a triple and winning pitcher Jeff Lichenberg added a single and a double as Warner Amex downed City Savings Bank 13-3.

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NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE: Ernie Taylor and Jeremy Harper each banged out three hits as the Elks downed Quality Printing 11-1 in the North League. One of Harper's hits was a home run. Pete Duquette was the winning pitcher.

Kolin Kozlowski and Todd Hould each had a pair of hits as Dave's Sporting Goods downed Colt Insurance by an 8-2 count. Glenn Sime was the winning pitcher. Scott McCauley had two hits including a homer for the losers.

Harper pitched a two-hitter and Taylor had four hits as the Elks also downed Colt Insurance by a 9-2 count, while Hould picked up the pitching win and Kozlowski pounded out three hits as Dave's downed the Police Department 13-1.

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EAST LITTLE LEAGUE: The Pittsfield East Little League has named its all-star team to play in the Berkshire County tournament this week.

The East team will be coached by Mickey Mazza and Mike Grogan.

Players include Gary Miles, Chad Mazza, Tim Donovan, Brian LeFaive and Kris Knutson of Pittsfield Pipers, Steve Little, Pat Mitchell and Tom Sloan of Northeast Carpets, Jim O'Brien and Pete Lalor of Moldmaster, Robbie Coco and Dan Wrench of the GE Employees' Credit Union, Randy Kinnas of Burger Chef and Shaun Thornton of Besse-Clarke.

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JUL 19 1983

County Little League

JUL 19 1983

Lee and defending champs open tourney with victories

Lee and defending champion Dalton-Hinsdale-Windsor posted high-scoring victories at home last night to open play in the 1983 Berkshire County Little League baseball all-star tournament.

Lee rode the four-hit pitching of Joey Moretz to post a 12-3 win over Adams, and Dalton-Hinsdale-Windsor opened its title defense by snapping an 11-11 tie with seven runs in the sixth inning to defeat North Adams East 18-11 in Hinsdale.

Last night's winners will play each other in a quarterfinal game tomorrow at 6 p.m. at Lee. In tomorrow's other quarterfinals, Pittsfield West plays Pittsfield East at the Benedict Road field, Pittsfield South plays Pittsfield North at Brown Street field and Williamstown visits Great Barrington.

The semifinals of the single-elimination tournament are scheduled Friday, with the county championship next Monday. All games are at 6 p.m.

Nine strikeouts

In Lee last night, Moretz struck out nine en route to his four-hitter, and Jeff Coons belted a two-run homer to highlight a six-run third inning that enabled the home team to overcome a 3-0 Adams lead. Lee took the game out of reach with four more runs in the fourth inning, helped by three walks.

Coons had two singles in addition to his homer, Ted Collins had a double and two singles, and Moretz had two singles to pace Lee's 12-hit attack.

In Hinsdale, Pat Duquette's two-run double highlighted his team's game-winning seven-run seventh, during which the home team used its bunting and base running skills to pull out the victory.

North Adams, making its first appearance in the county tournament, led most of the way, thanks to some power hitting. Todd Belleau belted a three-run homer in the first inning, and Tom Rumboldt hit a three-run homer and Tim Daub a solo homer during a four-run third that put North Adams on top 11-5 after three innings.

But the home team battled back, tying the score with three runs in both the fourth and fifth, then pulling it out in the sixth.

Billy Bird, the third Dalton hurler who blanked North Adams on no hits over the final two innings, earned the victory. Duquette, Todd Farley, Glen Reinhold and Brian Harrington each had two of the winners' 12 hits. Rumboldt had three hits for North Adams.

Four games set for tonight in county LL tournament

The Berkshire County Little League all-star baseball tournament resumes tonight with four quarterfinal games all scheduled to get underway at 6.

Lee and the defending county champion Dalton-Hinsdale-Windsor League, both coming off first-round wins Monday night, will meet in one quarterfinal tilt tonight at the Lee field, while in other action, Pittsfield West will be at Pittsfield East, Pittsfield North will be at Pittsfield South, and Williamstown will be at Great Barrington.

The winners of tonight's games move on to Friday's semifinals, with the East-West winner at the North-South winner while the winner of the Dalton-Lee game will be at home against the Williamstown-Great Barrington survivor.

The county championship game in the single-elimination tournament is scheduled for Monday, with the county champion moving on to state tournanment play that begins with preliminary play July 29 and August 1. The state final round of four will be August 5-6 at Leominster with the state champion going on to the East Regionals at Newburgh, N.Y. The regional winner will earn a berth in the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

JUL 20 1983

County Little Legaue tournament

Dalton-Hinsdale marches into semis

By Ray Lamont

Steve Tornicelli pitched a three-hitter and Pat Duquette's solo homer capped a six-run surge in the second inning last night, sparking the defending champion Dalton-Hinsdale all-stars to a 7-2 win over Lee in a Berkshire County Little League all-star tournament game at the Lee field.

The quarterfinal triumph enables Dalton-Hinsdale to move into the semifinals, where the Central Berkshire entry will host Great Barrington tomorrow at the Hinsdale Little League field.

Great Barrington, the 1981 county champion, also advanced to the semifinals last night with a 7-3 triumph over Williamstown. In other quarterfinal play last night, Pittsfield East downed Pittsfield West 9-2 and Pittsfield South topped Pittsfield North by a 10-7 count.

Pittsfield South will meet Pittsfield East in tomorrow's other semifinal game at Deming Field. Both semifinal games are set to start at 6 p.m., with the winners of tomorrow's games advancing to the county championship game Monday at 6 at the home field of the Dalton-Great Barrington winner.

Dalton-Hinsdale snapped a 1-1 tie with its six-run second last night. The big blows of the inning included an RBI double by Todd Farley, Duquette's solo homer and an RBI hit by Tornicelli — his second single of the inning.

Dalton-Hinsdale had gone ahead on a Dino Coppola RBI hit in the first, only to have Lee tie it in the top of the second when Pat O'Brien doubled, stole third, and scored on a passed ball.

On the mound, left-hander Tornicelli struck out eight and walked five, with three of those walks coming in the final two innings.

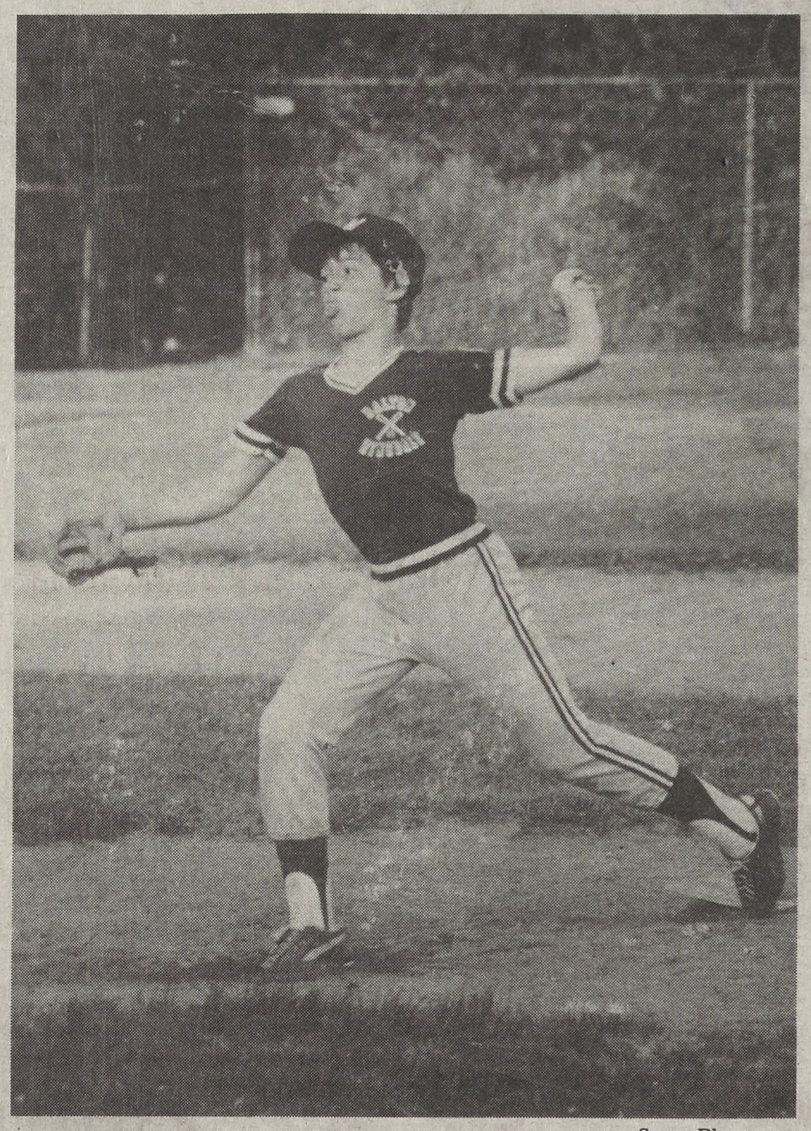
"He had a real good game for himself," Dalton-Hinsdale coach Ed Plouffe said of his hurler. "He had good velocity, got the ball in there and did what he had to do. We needed a complete game from him tonight. We had used three pitchers the other night [in an 18-11 first-round win over North Adams East], so getting a complete game tonight gives us a big boost."

At Great Barrington, Scott Kinne pitched a one-hitter and Andy Zdiarski knocked in the winning run with a fourth-inning single as the Great Barrington stars downed Williamstown.

The only hit off Kinne was a single by Kevin Joseph, but Williamstown scored three runs in that frame to take a 3-2 lead.

Zdiarski's hit, however, gave Barrington the lead for keeps in a two-run fourth, and the home team wrapped things up with a three-run sixth that featured RBI hits by Mike Barbieri and Victor Holcomb.

Kinne struck out nine, while he, Barbieri and Len Miller each had a pair of hits to spur the Great Barrington attack. Darrin Jones took the loss on the mound despite going the distance for Williamstown.



Susan Plageman

SOUTHPAW Steve Tornicelli fires to the plate en route to his three-hitter against the Lee Little League all-stars last night. Tornicelli's Dalton-Hinsdale all-stars, the defending county champions, downed Lee 7-3.

7-21-83

South advances

At the Brown Street field, Eric Gardzina's two-run double highlighted a three-run fifth inning that snapped a 7-7 tie and gave Pittsfield South its quarterfinal win over the North.

South took the lead with a five-run first, keyed by a two-run double by Keith Podavini and a two-run single by Rob Mole, but North tied it with a five-run third, an inning that included a three-run homer by Mark Wilk and a solo homer by Scott McCauley.

Podavini, who relieved starter Jerry Arace in the fourth, was the winning pitcher while Mole and Gardzina each had three hits. Wilk and Rick Wendling had two hits apiece for North.

East whips West

Steve Little pitched a four-hitter and struck out nine as the East downed the West at the Benedict Road field.

The East scored four runs in the first inning and was never headed, adding a solo homer by Tim Donovan in the third, two runs in the fourth on a double by Chad Mazza, and two final tallies in the sixth.

Little also had two singles and two RBI, while Anthony Gamberoni had a single and aB double for the West.

* * * *

LITTLE LEAGUE: Winning pitcher Matt Joseph also hit a single and a double and Chris Diehl banged out four singles as Evergreen Realty downed Virgilio's 24-9 in the Pittsfield South Little League.

Pete Montesanti and Chris Kearns each had a single and a double for Virgilio's.

John Carroll and winning pitcher John Ruscio each had a single and a double as Teo's rolled to an 11-3 triumph over Burger King. Jerry Arace had three hits for Burger King.

Billy Deegan, Steve Sykes, Dave Desnoyers and Jonathan Modan each three hits apiece as City Savings bank outlasted Evergreen Realty 7-5. Modan was the winning pitcher, while Diehl connected for a double and a single for the Realtors.

Dave Barzottini had a home rin and a double and Matt McCusker picked up the pitching win as Burger King topped Tank Shop by a 6-3 count. Matt George had two hits and three RBI for the Tank Shop.

Eric Gardzina banged out three hits while teammates Jason Valenti and Jim Menin each contributed a single and a double as Stevenson's Insurance edged East Side Pizza 8-7. Eddie Sherman had two singles and a double and Matt Risley added a pair of hits for East Side. Winning pitcher Keith LeVardi helped his own cause with a single and a double as well.

July 22, 1983

County Little League semifinals are tonight

July 22, 1983

Games in Hinsdale and at Deming Field in Pittsfield tonight mark the semifinals of the Berkshire County Little League all-star baseball tournament.

Defending champion Dalton-Hinsdale will take on Great Barrington in one semifinal clash at the Hinsdale Little League field, while host Pittsfield South will face Pittsfield East at Deming. Both games are set for 6.

The winners of tonight's games will advance to the Berkshire County championship game, which is slated for Monday night at 6 at the home field of the Dalton-Great Barrington winner.

The county champion will then move on to state tournament play, beginning July 29, with the eventual state champ earning a berth in the Eastern Regionals next month in Newburgh, N.Y. The Eastern titlist will compete in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

Little League playoffs

Pittsfield East, Barrington reach county final



July 23, 1983

Susan Plageman

HOME-PLATE COLLISION knocked the ball out of the grasp of Pittsfield South catcher Keith Podavini enabling Steve Little to score the East all-stars' eighth run last night at Deming Field. Pittsfield East downed the South 14-5 last night at Deming Field in the District 1 Little League semifinals.

By Carol Sliwa

Great Barrington squeaked by defending champion Dalton-Hinsdale 10-9 in a barnburner last night in Hinsdale, while the Pittsfield East all-stars ripped the Pittsfield South stars 14-5 at Deming Field in Little League District 1 semifinal action.

The winners will square off Monday night at 6 p.m. at Olympian Meadows Field in Great Barrington for the District 1 championship and the right to advance to the state tournament, which begins July 29. The state champion earns a berth to the Eastern Regionals next month in Newburgh, N.Y.

East 14, South 5

Steve Little sparked the East — blasting a home run, two doubles and driving in five runs — while teammate Pat Mitchell socked another home run and pitched effectively for 4⅔ innings to boost their team to its first victory over the South in over a decade.

"It took us 14 years to beat the South. This was a little extra special," beamed East mentor Micky Mazza.

Little's three-run shot, his 14th home run of the season, sailed well beyond the fence 210 feet away in left field and staked the East to a 6-1 lead in the top of the fourth inning. Little's second double of the game, which ricocheted off the top of the fence in left, added two insurance runs in the middle of a six-run East explosion in the sixth inning.

That outburst virtually killed any hopes for a South comeback. There had been hope just moments before, when they rallied for two runs in the bottom of the fifth on a two-run homer by Keith Podavini. That narrowed the South lead to 8-5, but the relief pitching of Brian Lefaive held the East scoreless through the final inning.

The East tore open the game in the sixth when Jim O'Brien led off with a double and later scored on an error. Rob Coco reached on an infield single and later scored on a walk to Chad Mazza before Little's home run lifted the East to a 12-5 lead. A wild pitch sent Mazza home, and Little scored the final run when teammate Gary Miles was caught stealing at second.

Prior to that, Mitchell and the defense were keys in holding the South in check.

"I didn't expect him to go more than three innings," said Mazza of Mitchell, noting that the 12-year-old normally pitches just three. "I told him if he could go three, I'd be happy. He threw a super game."

He also helped his own cause at the plate, with a two-run homer in the first inning.

Matt Risley, who finished the game with three hits, countered with a lead-off homer for the South in the bottom of the inning to close the gap to 2-1.

A sacrifice fly off the bat of Peter Lalor boosted the East lead to 3-1 in the second inning, until Little's three-run blast increased that advantage to 6-1 in the third.

Mitchell surrendered two unearned runs in the fourth inning (one on an RBI-double by the South's Jim Ziter, after Dave Barzottini had reached on an error), narrowing the East lead to 6-3. But the East came back with two unearned runs of its own in the top of the fifth.

Lefaive came on in relief of Mitchell in the bottom of the fifth, allowing no hits in picking up the save. Ed Sherman suffered the pitching defeat.

Great Barrington 10, Dalton 9

HINSDALE — A four-run rally in the bottom of the sixth inning lifted Great Barrington to the victory.

RBI singles from Scott Kinne and Jeff Martin and a run-producing double off the bat of winning pitcher Jeff Martin accounted for the first three runs of the inning. A passed ball sent Martin in with the winning run.

Mike Barbieri and Jeff Martin lined RBI doubles in the third inning to lift Great Barrington to a 2-1 advantage. Back-to-back home runs by Kinne and Barbieri, after Lenny Miller had doubled with two outs in the fourth, increased the margin to 5-1.

Dalton fought back with three in the top of the fifth, as Dino Coppola tripled in a run (and later scored on a passed ball) and Brian Harrington singled in a run. However, Great Barrington upped its lead to 6-4 on an RBI single by Andy Zoziarski in the bottom of the inning.

The Dalton barrage followed. The defending champions loaded the bases with no outs, scoring their first run on a walk to Pat Duquette. Successive singles from Bill Bird, Glenn Rheinhold and Harrington later plated three runs, with another resulting on a passed ball.

Youth baseball roundup

July 25, 1983

Dubiski sparks Civitan win

LITTLE LEAGUE: Geoff Dubiski knocked in seven runs with a double, a triple and a home run as Friendly's rolled to a 22-7 win over Civitan in a Pittsfield West Little League game at Clapp Park.

Dan Wlodkowski and Chuck Sheran each added a pair of hits for Friendly's, while Tim Shaughnessy was the winning pitcher. Eric Layden had a pair of hits for Civitan.

In other West League action, Peter Garivaltis went 3-for-3 and Shaun Godfrey picked up the pitching triumph as Jimmy's Restaurant downed Norm's Variety by an 8-4 score. Paul Martino banged out a pair of hits in a losing effort for Norm's.

Nate Brown and Matt Thomas had two hits apiece and Corie Salvi earned the mound win, boosting Itam to a 5-4 victory over the Eagles. Shaun Quinlan and Andy Greenlaw each had two hits for the Eagles.

* * * *

BRINDLE LEAGUE: The Brindle League's round-robin tournament is scheduled to get under way tonight with two games.

Tonight's openers will find Highland Stetson meeting McCormick & Toole Insurance in a Northern Division contest at the Crosby Middle School field, while Elks Club will take on Burger Chef in a Southern Division contest at Herberg Middle School. Game time at both sites is set for 5:30.

The league's best-of-three city championship series is slated to run Aug. 5-7, with Northern Division champ General Electric scheduled to face Southern winner Frosty Refrigeration to decide the league's overall champion.

East, Barrington meet in county LL final tonight

Pittsfield East and Great Barrington will meet tonight at 6 at the Olympian Meadows Field in Great Barrington to decide the 1983 Berkshire County Little League all-star tournament championship.

Both teams have posted a pair of wins to reach tonight's finals. East downed Pittsfield West 9-2 in the quarterfinals at the East's Benedict Road field and earned its title shot by downing Pittsfield South 14-5 Friday night in a semifinal game at Deming Field. Great Barrington began tournament play by posting a 7-3 win over the Adams all-stars and Friday night knocked off defending county champion Dalton-Hinsdale in a 10-9 semifinal thriller at Hinsdale.

Great Barrington will be looking to win its second county title in three seasons, having captured the crown in 1981. Pittsfield East, which has never won a county championship, is seeking to become the first Pittsfield team to win since South won the last of its record five consecutive championships in 1980.

The winner of tonight's game will move into state tournament competition and will host the District 2 (Connecticut Valley) champion in a first-round game Friday. The Berkshire County champion is also scheduled to play at home in the second round of the states Aug. 1. The state final round of four is slated for Leominster Aug. 5-6, while the state champion will then play in the U.S. Eastern Regionals at Newburgh, N.Y., Aug. 15-20. The regional champion goes from there to the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

All Little League tournament play is run on a single-elimination format.

July 25, 1983

138.

Little League playoffs

July 26, 1983

East captures 1st county title

By Ray Lamont

GREAT BARRINGTON — Twelve-year-old Steve Little pitched a one-hit shutout and belted a two-run homer last night to help the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars win their first-ever Berkshire County championship by beating the Great Barrington all-stars 7-0 at Olympian Meadows Field.

The East, which had never won a county title in 30 years of all-star competition, will now advance into the Massachusetts state tournament, and will begin with a first-round game Friday night at 5:30 at the Benedict Road field against either Amherst or Westfield South, who are playing tonight in Amherst to decide the Connecticut Valley championship.

If East wins its Friday game, the team will play a second-round game — again at home — against a Central Massachusetts foe on Monday. From there, the East could advance to the state final four August 5-6 at Leominster, possible Eastern Regional competition at Newburgh, N.Y., and the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. All Little League tournament play is run on a single-elimination basis. In case you're wondering, the East all-stars now need to win 11 straight games to win the Little League World Championship.

Little was overpowering in hurling his team to victory last night. "He pitched a super game — just super," said East manager Mickey Mazza. "He's been doing it all along, but I think he was stronger tonight than he was the last time [when Little pitched a four-hitter in a 9-2 quarterfinal win over Pittsfield West]."

Little did not walk a man and struck out nine — five in the first two innings. The only hit off him was a ground single to center by Great Barrington's Andy Zdziarski with one out in the fifth.

Short sacrifice fly

Great Barrington had been locked in a scoreless tie with the East through four innings, thanks to the strong pitching of Scott Kinne, who, to that point, was working on a two-hit shutout of his own. But East broke the scoreless deadlock in the fifth, when the eventual winning run scored in vintage Little League fashion, on — are you ready for this? — a sacrifice fly to the second baseman.

With one out in the Pittsfield fifth, Pete Lalor reached on an error and went to third when Pat Mitchell connected for a solid double that bounced on one hop to the fence in left. Chad Mazza then sliced a lazy pop fly into short right field, where Barrington second baseman Lenny Miller stepped back and made the catch. But Lalor alertly tagged up at third and headed for the plate, scoring the first run of the game when he slid under the tag of catcher Zdziarski.

"I told the kids, when we got men in scoring position, if there's anything hit on the outfield grass, tag up and take a chance," manager Mazza said later. "The way things were going, I was sure one or two runs would win the ball game."

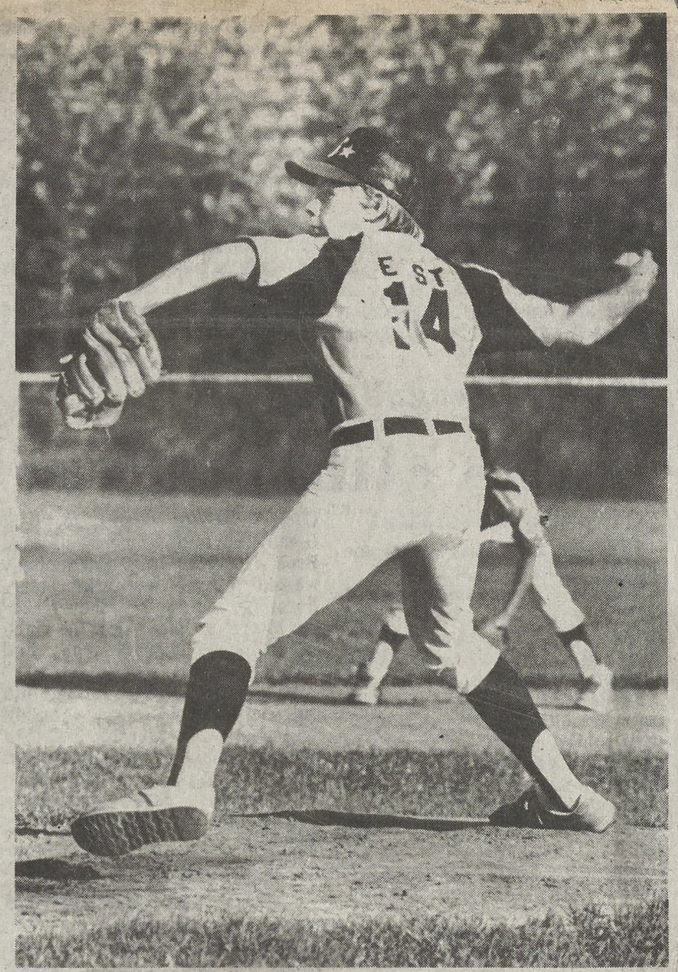
Other scoring

East added its second run moments later, when Mitchell went to third and then scored on a pair of passed balls. And the Pittsfield team wrapped things up with a five-run splurge in the top of the sixth — an inning that included a two-run triple into the right-field corner off the bat of No. 9 hitter Randy Kinnas, a run-scoring infield hit by Lalor, and Little's two-run homer, which drifted just over the fence in deep left-center.

The game was a snappy one — each team committed just one error and East first baseman Mazza turned a Mike Hankey line drive into a neat double play to end the Barrington fifth.

"The kids played great — just great," the elder Mazza said amid his team's dugout celebration. "They hit when we needed it, they played very well in the field. They did just about everything I could ask for." And finally, after 30 years, the East Little League has a Berkshire County championship.





Photos by Mark Mitchell

ALL-STARS Pat Mitchell, left, and Steve Little helped Pittsfield East capture its first Berkshire County Little League championship last night with a 7-0 win over Great Barrington. Mitchell, here fielding at shortstop, had a single and a double while Little pitched a one-hit shutout and banged a two-run homer.

NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE: Kollin Kozlowski and Todd Hould banged out three hits apiece as Dave's Sporting Goods won both the second-half and league championship by scoring a 14-5 playoff win over Colt Insurance in the Pittsfield North Little League at the Brown Street field.

Hould was also the winning pitcher. Rick Wendling and Eric Sprague had two hits each while Scott McCauley belted a home run for Colt.

A bases-loaded, sixth-inning single by 9-year-old Dom Giardina enabled Colt Insurance to edge Fire Department 7-6 in the final regular-season game, forcing the second-half playoff. Derrick Levine had three hits and McCauley cracked another home run for Colt. Wendling, who added two hits, was the winning pitcher. Scott Halkowicz, Mike Wilk and Dave Dickhout had two hits apiece for the Firemen.

In other North action, Wilk and Dickhout banged out three hits apiece and Shaun Keegan earned the pitching victory as the Fire Department downed the Police Department 16-10. One of Wilk's hits was a home run. Eric Ouellette belted a homer for the Police.

A four-hit effort by Ernie Taylor helped carry the Elks to an 11-9 triumph over Quality Printing. Mark Poopor added two hits for the Elks, with Pete Duquette getting the pitching win. Mark Ferdyn banged out a pair of hits for the Printers.

Dickhout was the winning pitcher while Anton Kaufer and Robbie Porter had two hits each as the Fire Department topped Quality Printing 12-1. Mike Murray had a pair of hits for the losers.

Jim Salvie's two-run double in the sixth inning enabled Dave's to post a 6-4 triumph over the Elks. Glenn Sime was the winning pitcher, while Dan Roy was tagged with the loss.

The Police Department rallied for seven runs in the eighth inning to snap a 2-2 tie and defeat Quality Printing by a 9-2 count. Ouellette, Darryn Colwell, Scott Turner and Rick Manning each had two hits for the Police. Billy Coe picked up the pitching win.

July 27, 1983

Friday's foes settled for East L.L., Aces

July 27, 1983

Friday's opponents for the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars and the Friendship Tyler Aces American Legion baseball team were decided by contests last night in the Pioneer Valley.

In American Legion play, Aldenville Post 337 defeated Easthampton 9-4 last night to complete a two-game sweep in their Zone 3B championship series. That means Aldenville (19-8) will host the Friendship Tyler Aces (17-1) in the opening game of their best-of-3 first-round state tournament playoff series Saturday. That game is expected to be played at Szot Park in Chicopee, but a site and time are expected to be finalized today. The second game will be Sunday at Wahconah Park, again at a time to be determined.

In Little League, Westfield South defeated Amherst 5-4 last night to capture their District 2 double-elimination series. That means Westfield South will visit Berkshire County champion Pittsfield East in the opening round of the state tournament Friday at 5:30 p.m. at Benedict Road field.

A story in yesterday's Eagle incorrectly reported that the East's county championship victory Monday gave the league its first county title in 30 years. Actually, an East all-star team won the county title in 1961, and reached the state finals before losing in Haverhill.

139.

WEST LITTLE LEAGUE: In the West Little League, winning pitcher Mitch McKnight belted a three-run homer in the third inning and those runs stood up the rest of the way as Norm's Variety downed Friendly's 3-1. Geoff Dubiski had a pair of hits for Friendly's.

In other West action, Norm's also downed the Eagles 15-14, largely on the strength of a 13-run first inning that gave the variety store team a 13-2 lead. McKnight had four hits, while Anthony Campoli and Tony Eaton had run-scoring singles for the Eagles.

Brian Griffin, Sean McBride and Erik Reddington had two hits apiece as Civitan downed Jimmy's Restaurant 5-3. Anthony Gamberoni had a pair of hits for Jimmy's.

Winning pitcher Dubiski helped his own cause with two hits and Derrick Jones banged out three hits as Friendly's topped Itam 6-4. Nate Brown and Corie Salvi each had three hits for Itam.

Vinnie Szymanski picked up the pitching win and cracked a home run as Connor Pharmacy posted a 9-4 triumph over Jimmy's. Mike Sukiennik and Robert Fabino had three hits each for Connor's. Gamberoni again had a pair of hits for Jimmy's.

July 28, 1983

WEST LITTLE LEAGUE: Civitan captured its second consecutive West Little League championship with a 6-4 victory over Itam. Eric Layden was the winning pitcher, and Mike Soules had three hits for the winners. Erik Reddington and Jeff Contenta added two hits apiece for Civitan. For Itam, Matt Thomas, Nate Brown, Mark McKenna and Greg Schlich had two hits each and McKenna struck out 10 in a losing mound effort.

Little League states

JUL 29 1983

East stars host Westfield

By Ray Lamont

Having given their league its first Berkshire County championship in 22 years, the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars begin their quest for greater glory tonight when they meet the Westfield South all-stars in the first round of the Mass. state Little League all-star tournament.

The East and Westfield will meet at 5:30 at the East's home stomping grounds, the Benedict Road field. The winner of tonight's game will move on to host a second-round game against a Central Mass. opponent on Monday, with the winner of that game going on to the state final four next Friday and Saturday in Leominster.

The eventual state champion will then gain a berth in the Eastern Regionals at Newburgh, N.Y., with the regional champ advancing to the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

The East had not won a Berkshire County crown since 1961, but all that changed Monday night when the current East stars whipped Great Barrington 7-0 in the county finals at Great Barrington.

Steve Little, who pitched a one-hit shutout in that county championship game, will be on the mound for the East again tonight. A big right-hander, Little is 2-0, and has also gone 7-for-9 at the plate and hit two home runs in the all-star playoffs.

"He doesn't throw a curve or anything. He just throws hard," East manager Mickey Mazza said of Little's mound prowess. "He doesn't have any junk — he just lets it go."

Other starters

The rest of the East starting lineup will find Tim Donovan behind the plate, with Chad Mazza at first base, Pete Lalor at second, Pat Mitchell at shortstop and Jim O'Brien at third. The outfield, from left to right, includes Gary Miles, Randy Kinnas and Brian Lefaive.

Manager Mazza says his team is ready and raring to go in state play. "They're loose, and they're really up for it," the East skipper commented, adding that the home field advantage may also help his team tonight. "They kids really feel comfortable here," he said, scanning the Benedict Road field. "They've been playing here for three of four years, and they know all the hops . . . all the little bumps that might be out there. It has to help us a little."

In Westfield, East will be facing a team that is playing in the states for the second time in four years. Westfield South won the District 2 championship Tuesday night with a 5-2 win over Amherst. The starting pitcher for Westfield tonight is expected to be Mike Roberts, a 5-foot-9 right-hander who is also 2-0 and pitched in that Tuesday night title game.

Pittsfield, 10-3

State Little League

Worcester	ab	r	h	bi	Pittsfield	ab	r	h	bi
Carelli 2b-p	4	0	0	0	Lalor, 2b	2	1	0	0
Desto, p	0	0	0	0	Mitchell pss	4	2	2	0
Alizio, cf	2	0	0	0	Mazza, 1b	4	3	3	2
Daufle, cf	0	0	0	0	Little ss-cf	4	3	4	3
Dema, cf	1	0	0	0	Miles, lf	3	0	1	1
DeAngelis ss	3	0	0	0	Donovan, c	3	0	0	0
Gffrion cflb	2	1	1	0	Coco, rfLefa	2	1	1	0
Whitenett lf	3	1	1	0	Lefaive, p	1	0	0	0
Keeney, lf	0	0	0	0	O'Brien, 3b	2	0	0	0
Morano 1b-p	3	1	2	2	Kinnas cf-rf	3	0	1	1
Gentile, c	3	0	1	1					
Puntillo 3b	3	0	2	0					
Genese rf-2b	3	0	1	0					
Totals	27	3	8	3	Totals	28	10	12	7
Pittsfield						400	123		10
Worcester						000	300		3

E—Worcester-3, Pittsfield-1; LOB—Worcester-8, Pittsfield-6; 2B—Little-3, Mazza, Whitenett; 3B—Mazza; S—O'Brien.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Mitchell	3⅓	3	2	2	1	5
Lefaive (W)	2⅔	5	1	1	1	5
Desto (L)	0	3	4	0	1	0
Morano	5⅓	9	6	4	3	5
Carelli	⅔	0	0	0	1	1

WP—Morano-1, Carelli-2; T—1 hr., 43 minutes; PB—Gentile-4; Umpires—Joe Marzielo, Greg Fick, Mark Andrew.

Little League states

JUL 30 1983

East all-stars whip Westfield 3-1

By Ray Lamont

Steve Little pitched his second straight one-hitter and Jim O'Brien's bases-loaded double highlighted a three-run fourth inning last night as the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars downed Westfield South 3-1 in a first-round state Little League tournament game before a crowd of about 500 at the Brown Street field.

The victory means that the East will now advance to a second-round game on Monday against either Gardner or the Jack Barry League of Worcester in another 5:30 game at the Brown Street field. Last night's game was originally scheduled for the East's home field — the Benedict Road field — but was moved yesterday afternoon because the North League's field at Brown Street is in better condition. Gardner and the Barry League are meeting in their first-round game today in Leominster.

If East wins Monday's game, the Berkshire County champions will then advance to the state semifinals and finals to be played next Friday and Saturday in Leominster. The state champion will then move on to the Eastern Regionals at Newburgh, N.Y., with the regional winner going on to the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

The East is the first Berkshire County champion to advance past the first round of state play in three seasons — county champs Great Barrington and Dalton-Hinsdale both bowed out in the first round of the states in 1981 and 1982, respectively. But the East stars dug in right from the start, uninhibited by the imposing presence of Westfield's 5-foot-9 pitcher, Mike Roberts.

"They weren't intimidated at all," East manager Mickey Mazza said of his players. "We knew what we'd be facing, and last night [Thursday] in batting practice, I threw, [assistant coach] Pat Carnevale threw, and Mr. [Ron] Kinnas [the father of East center-fielder Randy Kinnas] threw. We pumped hard, and we mixed it up on the kids because we knew this kid [Roberts] had a good curve. When they got up there tonight, they were ready for him."

Three hits for Mitchell

Pat Mitchell sparked the East offense with a single, double and triple. And his leadoff single touched off the big East fourth, when the Pittsfield team scored all three of its runs.

After Mitchell singled, Chad Mazza sacrificed him to second and Mitchell scampered over to third moments later on a passed ball. Little, who is now hitting .667 in the all-star playoffs, then delivered a solid, run-scoring double off the base of the fence in left to give his team a 1-0 lead.

After Gary Miles flied to center, Tim Donovan walked and Brian Lefaive reached on an error to load the bases. And O'Brien followed with a ringing RBI double to right-center, which scored both Little and Donovan. Lefaive also tried to score and was gunned down at the plate. But the East already had all the runs it needed.

That's not to say it was easy.

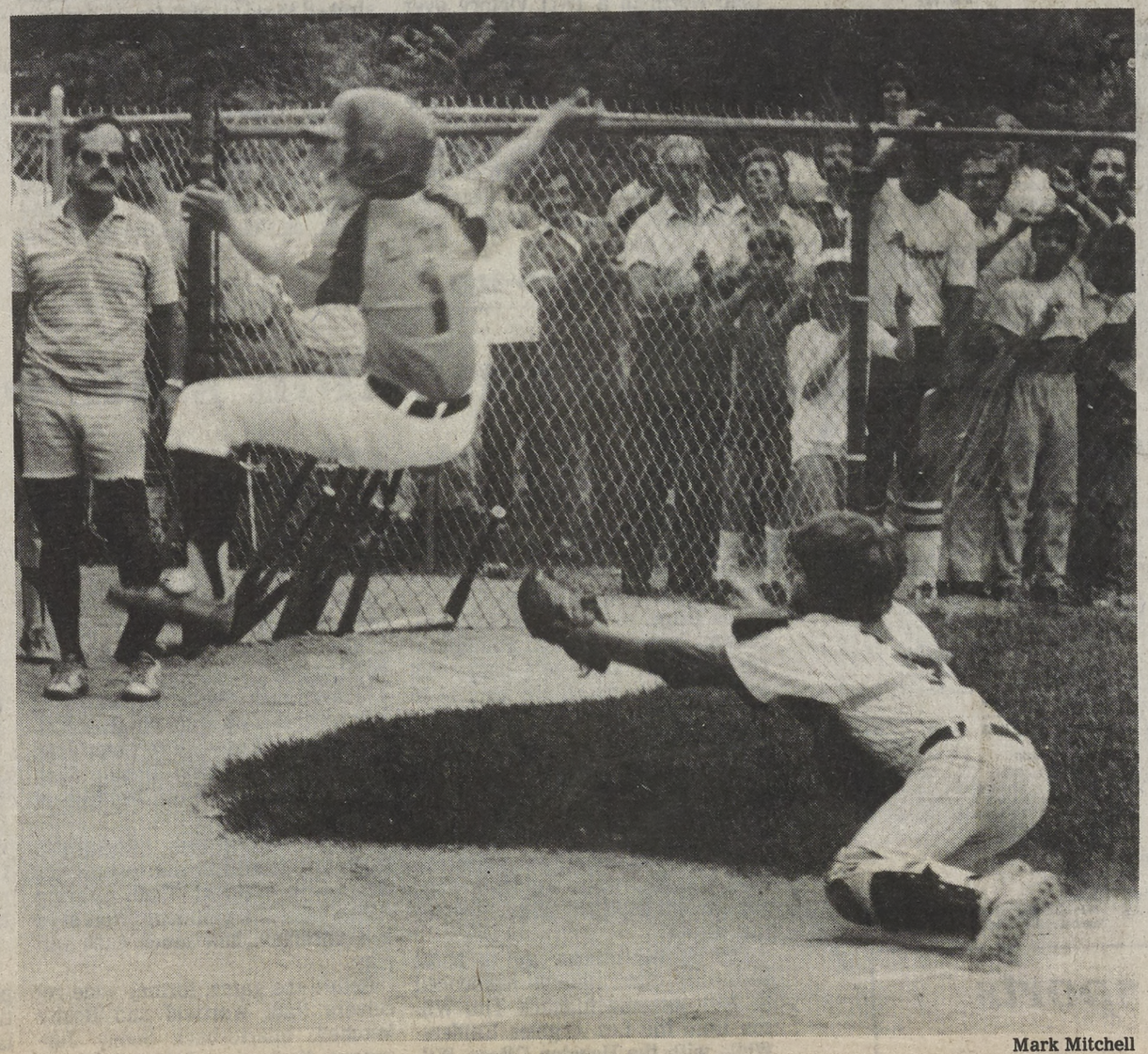
In the last of the fourth, pitcher Roberts reached Little for Westfield's only hit of the game, a solid solo homer over the fence in left-center. And the visitors had two men on due to a walk and an error in the fifth. But Little worked his way out of that jam by striking out Jeff Russell, and wrapped up the win with a 1-2-3 sixth.

Big defensive play

The key defensive play of the game came in the last of the fourth, just before Roberts' homer.

After leadoff man Russell had reached on an error, Steve Fortier looped a hump-backed liner to East second baseman Pete Lalor, who made the catch and fired to first to complete a double play. And that twin killing took on added significance when Roberts homered second later. "That was the big key right there," manager Mazza said of the double play. "That's the way these kids have been playing. They've been getting the big play when they've needed it. That's why we're winning."

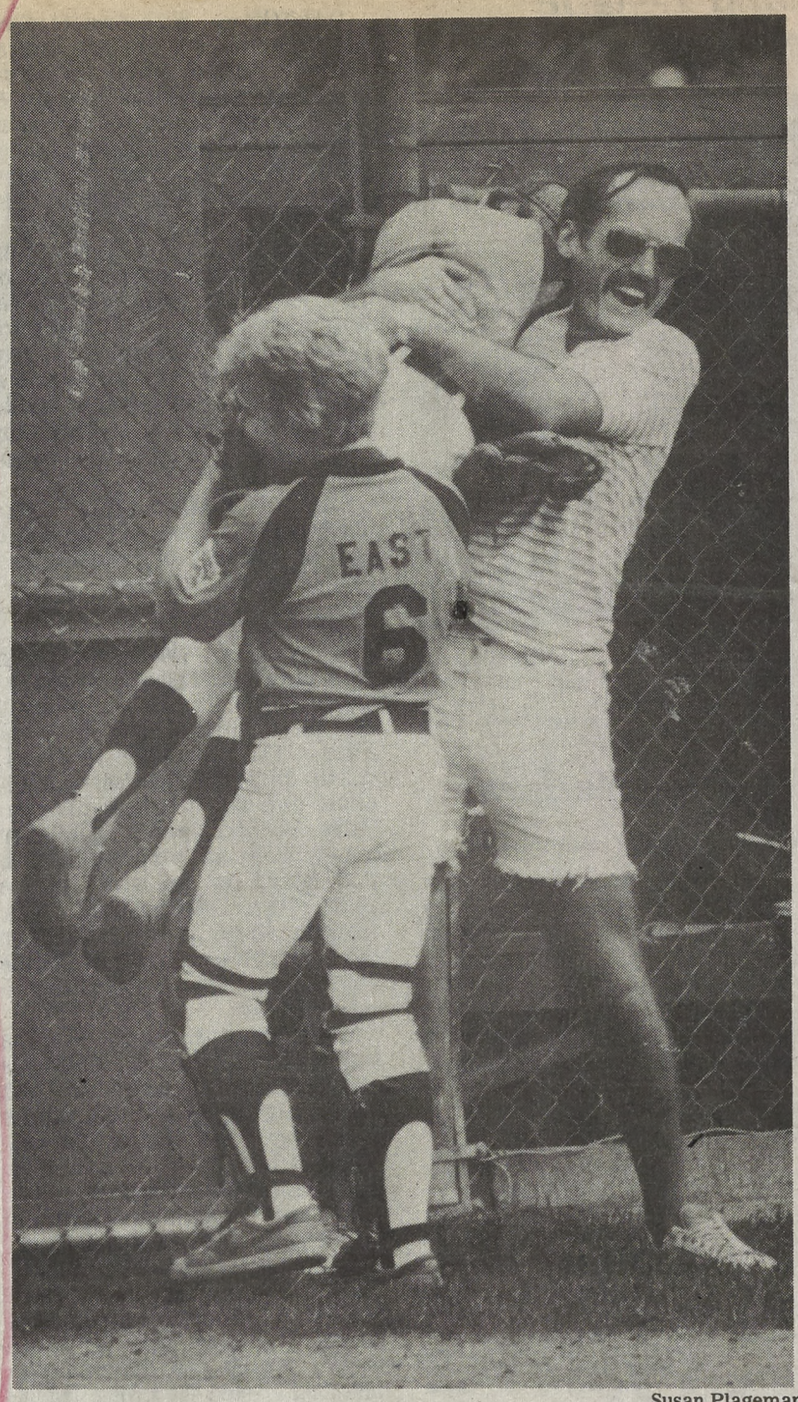
Little, who hurled a one-hit shutout when East beat Great Barrington 7-0 to win its first county title in 22 years on Monday, finished last night's game with three walks and eight strikeouts. Roberts, who also went the distance, walked one and struck out four. Counting both league and all-star play, the Westfield right-hander completed his season with a record of 21-2.



Mark Mitchell

HIGH-FLYING Brian Lefaive of the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars was out at the plate despite this bid to leap over the tag of Westfield South catcher Steve Fortier during last night's state tournament Little League all-star game at the Brown Street field. Lefaive had tried to score on Jim O'Brien's bases-loaded, fourth-inning double. The East beat Westfield 3-1.

141.



Susan Plageman

Next stop, Leominster

Winning pitcher Brian Lefaive (1) leaps into the arms of his jubilant manager Mickey Mazza following last night's 10-3 victory by the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars over the Jack Barry all-stars of Worcester in their state tournament game. Pittsfield catcher Tim Donovan looks on at left. The East squad goes to the state semifinals Friday in Leominster.

Little League states

AUG 2 1983

Hard-hitting East marches on, 10-3

By Bob McDonough

For the first time in 22 years, it's time for the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars to hit the road.

Steve Little cracked three doubles and a single to pace a 12-hit attack last night that earned the East stars a berth in the state "Final Four" in Leominster with a solid 10-3 victory over the Jack Barry League all-stars of Worcester.

The game was played in intermittent rain before a crowd of about 450 at the North Little League field on Springside Avenue. City Little League volunteers put in a tremendous effort to prepare the field for the game's 5:30 p.m. start after a downpour at 3 left puddles throughout the infield.

Last night's win means that the East team is one of four to reach the final round of state play. Those four teams play Friday in Leominster, with the Boston and Lawrence area squads battling at 2 and Pittsfield taking on Auburn at 5. Auburn qualified for the Final Four last night with an 8-6 win over Middleboro.

Friday's winners play for the state championship Saturday at 2 in Leominster, with the champion going on to the regionals in Newburgh, N.Y.

East gets quick lead

A solid hitting attack and near-flawless defense turned the trick for the Pittsfield squad last night, as the East jumped on top 3-0 before the first out was registered.

Pete Lalor led off with a walk and went to second on a passed ball. Starting pitcher Pat Mitchell followed with a bloop single to center, and Lalor scored when a throw to third base went wild. Chad Mazza then delivered Mitchell with a solid double that hit the left field fence on one hop. Little made it 3-0 with the first of his three consecutive doubles, a bullet down the third base line that chased Worcester starter Greg Desto.

Two outs later, Little scored the fourth run of the inning when Tim Donovan hit a fielder's choice grounder. He went to third on the play and scored on the second overthrow of the inning.

Right-hander Mitchell cruised behind that 4-0 bulge into the fourth inning, when Randy Kinnas belted an RBI single to make it 5-0. Then the East ran into its only trouble of the game.

Worcester rallies

Waltzing on a one-hit shutout into the fourth, Mitchell was touched for a one-out single by Alan Geoffrion and a double by Rich Whitenett. That brought out East manager Mickey Mazza.

"The first thing I asked was if he was tired, and he said he was," Mazza said of his conversation with Mitchell. The manager immediately brought in Brian Lefaive, whose first pitch was drilled to center field by Peter Morano for a two-run single. Ed Gentile followed with an RBI single up the middle to cut the deficit to 5-3 before Lefaive pitched out of the jam.

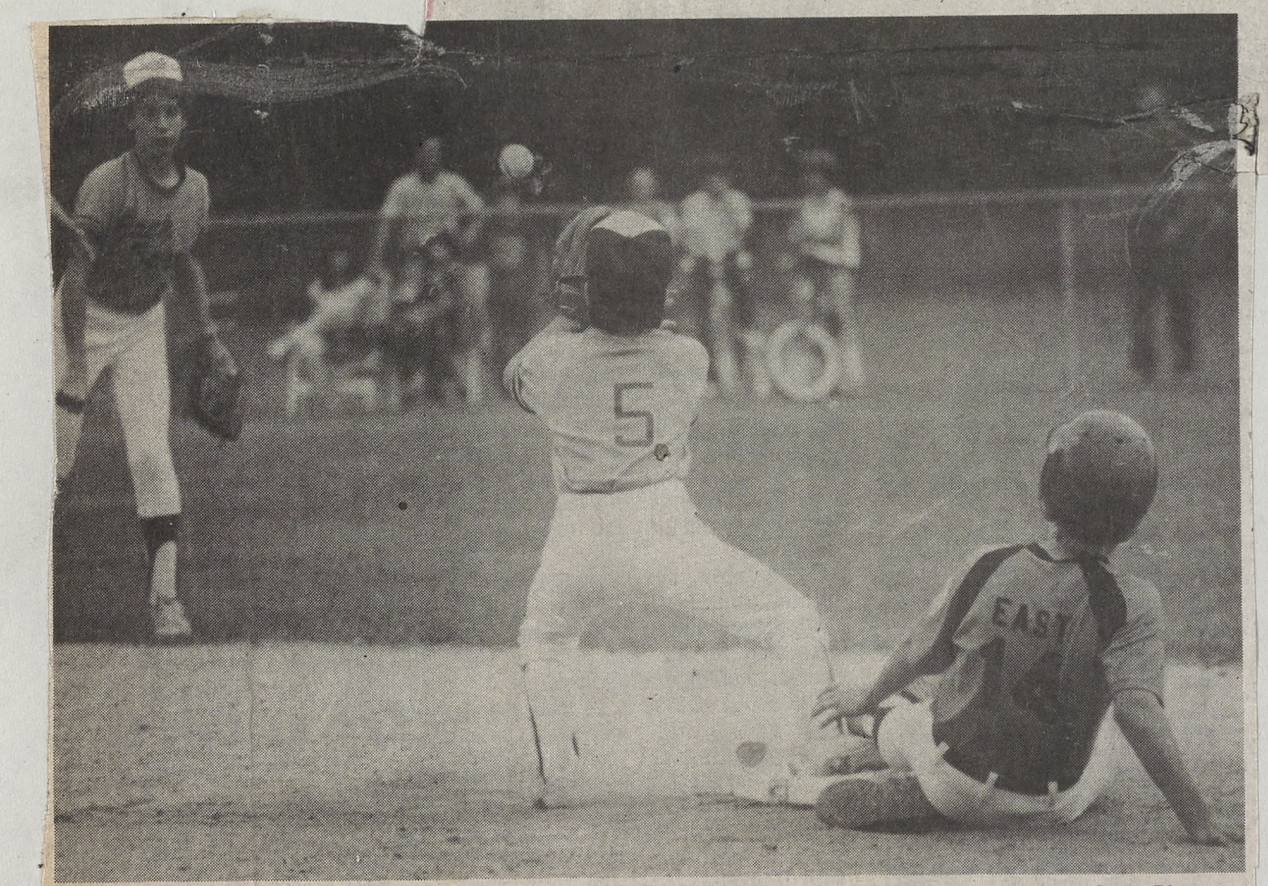
Lefaive blanked Worcester on two hits the rest of the way, as his teammates jumped on two Worcester pitchers for five insurance runs in the next two innings.

Little had another RBI double and Gary Miles added an RBI single of the second baseman's shoulder to make it 7-3 in the fifth. Pittsfield finished things off in the sixth with three runs, one scoring on Mazza's long triple down the left field line, one on Little's infield single and one on a passed ball.

Worcester threatened to make things interesting in the sixth, loading the bases with no outs. But Lefaive, an 11-year-old right hander, showed his mettle by striking out the next two batters and retiring the third on a grounder back to the box, touching off a jubilant whirl of orange uniforms near the East dugout.

"This is a dream come true," said Mickey Mazza, a 14-year veteran of Little League coaching. "I think I'm enjoying it more than the kids.

In addition to Little's four hits and three RBI, Chad Mazza chipped in with a single, double, triple and two RBI.



Susan Plageman

LATE THROW hovers above Pittsfield East Little League slugger Steve Little (14) as he slides safely into second base with the last of his three doubles in last night's 10-3 tournament victory over Worcester. Worcester second baseman Chris Carelli (5) awaits the throw from Dave DeAngelis, left.

Area baseball

JUL 30 1983

East, 3-1

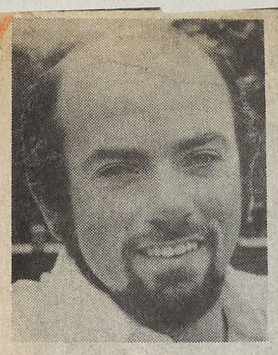
East	ab	r	h	bi	Westfield	ab	r	h	bi
Lalor, 2b	3	0	0	0	K.Russell rf	2	0	0	0
Mitchell, ss	3	1	3	0	J.Russell cf	3	0	0	0
Mazza, 1b	2	0	0	0	Fortier, c	3	0	0	0
Little, p	3	1	1	1	Roberts, p	3	1	1	1
Miles, lf	3	0	0	0	Garvey, 2b	1	0	0	0
Donovan, c	2	1	1	0	Elie, lf-3b	2	0	0	0
Lefaive, rf	3	0	0	0	Hatton, 3b	1	0	0	0
O'Brien, 3b	2	0	1	2	Callini, 1b	1	0	0	0
Kinnas, cf	2	0	0	0	Kennedy, 1b	1	0	0	0
					Rundell, lf	1	0	0	0
					Humphrey, ss	2	0	0	0
Totals	23	3	6	3	Totals	20	1	1	1

East	000	300	—3
Westfield	000	100	—1

E—East-2, Westfield-1; DP—East-1; LOB—East-4, Westfield-4; 2B—Mitchell, Little; 3B—Mitchell; HR—Roberts; S—Mazza.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Little (W 3-0)	6	1	1	1	3	8
Roberts (L 3-1)	6	6	3	1	1	4

WP—Roberts; T—1 hr., 13 minutes; PB—Fortier; Umpires—Joe Marziello, Mark Andrew, Greg Fick.



As I See It

AUG 3 1983

A mouth that roared

By Bob McDonough

There she stood, not 30 feet away.

I had heard about her.

Read about her.

Been warned about her.

Feared — no, dreaded — the moment I might encounter her.

Worse than Cat Woman, Ma Barker and Lizzie Borden all rolled into one, there she stood, right there next to the fence near first base at the baseball diamond on Springside Avenue.

It was her, no doubt about it — "Little League Mother!"

You've heard about "Little League Father," the infamous scoundrel who hides behind the scenes pushing his little kid to painful limits to accomplish the feats that dad never did.

Well, next to Little League Mother, that guy is a class A whimp.

Little League Mother packs more venom and wallop than a 20-pound rattler, coiled beneath the rock and ready to strike without notice. Like the rattler, all you've got to do is rile her up a little.

* * * *

She appeared from somewhere Monday night at the Brown Street Field, where the Pittsfield East stars were moving up on the state playoff ladder with a solid 10-3 win over the Jack Barry all-stars of Worcester.

It had rained like the devil at 3 p.m., but North Little League president Don Gleason and his troops did their usual tremendous job of preparing the city's top Little League field for its most important game of the year.

About 450 people showed up to cheer on the 10-to-12-year-old boys in their quest for glory. About 449 of those fans were just the kind of fine upstanding folks you'd want. influencing your youngsters. They keep things in perspective, realize it's just a game, and pat the error-makers on the back with a hearty, "go get 'em next time."

Almost all of the mothers in that crowd fit the same upstanding description.

But then there was Little League Mother, the perfect example of the stereotype who has given the program its uncalled-for black eye.

She was the perfect example of everything bad you've ever heard. She was the mouth that roared, possessing a voice with just that extra decibel or two that carried it above the din of the other 449.

* * * *

For the first few calm innings, she just existed, exhorting players by their first names, with nothing controversial to set her off.

Finally, inevitably, it happened.

There was an appeal play, where the Worcester team thought maybe a Pittsfield runner may have missed a base. Infield umpire Mark Andrew of Pittsfield heard the appeal and called the runner safe. Like anybody happy in his job, Andrew did his job with a smile.

He shouldn't have smiled.

"Whatta' you smilin' at," Little League Mother finally erupted, at a volume that eliminated all other sound and sucked most of the air out of the ballpark. "Keep smilin' fella," the voice continued. "I'll break ya' teeth."

For years, I had heard about Little League Mother. Famous as she was, I had to sneak a look, like the irresistible urge to risk eternal stonehood by gazing upon Medusa.

"Whatta' you lookin' at?" she demanded of her admirer. "I'll break your teeth, too."

Mercifully, from her accent and her knowledge of the Worcester team's names, she was one of "theirs" and not one of "ours."

Let it be ever thus.

Pairings set for LL states

Pairings have been finalized for tomorrow's semifinals in the Mass. state Little League all-star tournament semifinals, to be played at Bachand Memorial Field in Leominster.

The first game of the semifinal double-header tomorrow will pit the Melrose American all-stars against Swampscott at 2 p.m. The second game, at 5, features Berkshire County champion Pittsfield East against Auburn.

The winners of those two games are scheduled to play for the state championship Saturday at 2 p.m., with the losers of tomorrow's games squaring off in a consolation game Saturday morning at 10:30. All tournament games will be played at Bachand Field.

The state champion will then go on to the Eastern Regionals August 15-20 at Newburgh, N.Y., with the regional winner advancing to the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pa.

The East, which two weeks ago won the Berkshire County championship for the first time in 22 years, is the first Berkshire County team to reach the state semifinals since Pittsfield South placed third in the states at Wakefield in 1978. Pittsfield South is also the last county team to win a state championship, having captured back-to-back titles in 1976-77.

AUG 4 1983

man.

AUG 8 1983

25 Years Ago

Dave Tatro's two-hit pitching and his two hits at the plate led Dick Moon's to a 2-1 win over the Pittsfield Fire Department in the North Little League championship game at Wahconah Park.

Nancy Harris was chosen as the most typical Camp Stevenson girl at the closing council fire of the third period at the camp.

Little League states

AUG 5 1983

East stars play Auburn today at 5

By Ray Lamont

The Pittsfield East Little League all-stars, with five victories under their belt in county and state tournament competition, today venture to the Central Massachusetts community of Leominster where, over the next two days, they will try to become the state Little League champions.

The East all-stars will meet Auburn in a 5 p.m. state semifinal game today at Leominster's Bachand Field, and a victory in that contest will put the East in the state finals against either Swampscott or the Melrose Americans tomorrow at 2. Melrose and Swampscott are playing in the other semifinal game today at 2. The losers of today's semifinals will meet in a consolation game tomorrow morning at 10:30. All tournament games will be played at Bachand Field.

The state champion will gain a berth in the Eastern Regional tournament, to be held August 15-20 in Newburgh, N.Y., with the regional titlist advancing to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

After winning the Berkshire County championship for the first time in 22 years, the East all-stars have advanced to the state Final Four by posting a 3-1 opening-round win over Westfield South and a 10-3 second-round triumph over the Jack Barry League of Worcester. Those scores would seem to indicate the Pittsfield stars are getting stronger as they go along.

Growing confidence

"I think a lot of it is their confidence," East manager Mickey Mazza said last night. "They know what they can do, and they're confident going into this. All they're talking about is winning the Friday game and then playing in the finals Saturday. They're relaxed . . . they're calm. I think I'm more excited than the kids are. I'm a nervous wreck, but they're fine."

The East has done it all in tournament play to date, getting hitting — like a 12-hit attack that beat the Barry League Monday — pitching — Steve Little, today's mound starter, has thrown two straight one-hitters — and above all, defense. The East stars have made just six errors in five games. "The infield, in particular, is really solid," said Mazza, assessing one of his team's major strongpoints. The infield lineup includes Chad Mazza — son of the manager — at first base, 11-year-old Pete Lalor at second, Pat Mitchell at short and Jim O'Brien at third.

"They've been making the plays, and they've been making the big plays," manager Mazza pointed out. "They've turned some double plays that have gotten us out of some real tough spots."

The East will be trying to bring Berkshire County its first championship since Pittsfield South won back-to-back titles in 1976-77. The East stars are also the first county team to reach the state Final Four since South placed third in the states in 1978.

Last year's runner-up

In Auburn, the East will be facing a tournament-tested team that made it to the state finals last summer before losing 5-2 to Millis. Three players from that team — center fielder Jim Kennedy, shortstop Danny Dupuis and pitcher Darryle Corriveau — are back with this year's club. And Corriveau, a 5-foot-4 right-hander who is 3-0 in all-star play, will start on the mound today.

Auburn swept to victory in four games in the District 3 playoffs, then, in state play, beat Somerset and edged Middleboro 8-6 as Corriveau belted a three-run homer.

Directions to Leominster

Pittsfield fans planning to attend the weekend games should take the Massachusetts Turnpike to Exit 10, and get on I-290 toward Worcester. Follow I-290 beyond the downtown Worcester area, and then get on I-190. Follow I-190 to Leominster, and get off at Mechanic Street. Once on Mechanic Street, follow signs to the Little League field, which is located on 12th Street.

Little League states AUG 6 1983

Auburn KOs East 4-0 in semifinals

By Ray Lamont

LEOMINSTER — The state championship dreams of the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars suddenly came to an end here last night as Auburn defeated the East 4-0 in the semifinals of the Mass. Little League state tournament.

The victory means Auburn, which finished second in the states last year, will face Swampscott in the championship game today at 2 p.m. East, despite being eliminated from title contention, will play the Melrose Americans in a battle for third place this morning at 10:30.

A 12-year-old right-handed pitcher named Darryle Corriveau was the primary thorn in the side of the East stars last night. Corriveau, now 4-0 in all-star play, pitched a four-hitter, walked just one and struck out six, besting East ace Steve Little in a good mound duel. Little also walked one and fanned six while tossing a four-hitter. Both teams also played errorless ball in the snappy game, which lasted just 63 minutes.

Little got the side 1-2-3 in the first inning, but Auburn struck for three runs in the last of the second, using, as its primary weapon, a baseball basic — the bunt.

After Dan Zanouskas drew a lead-off walk, Shaun Ryan bunted him over to second and reached first when East catcher Tim Donovan threw late in a bid to get Zanouskas. Another bunt, by P.J. Pellegrino, went for a base hit to load the bases, and after Zanouskas scored on a passed ball, Rick Pettit knocked in Auburn's second run with a clean single to center. The third Auburn tally came on yet another bunt, a safety squeeze by Troy Watkins that scored Pellegrino.

"I like to play the percentages," Auburn manager Stan Rutkiewicz said, "and bunting is a big part of the percentages. You get a man on, you move him over. It's a big part of the game — and it works when you've got good bunters. I like to think we've got some of the best around."

Auburn's final run came in the fourth — and this one was hardly a bunt. Ryan, leading off the inning, slammed a Little fast ball over the left-center field fence for a home run.

Pittsfield had its chances.

In the top of the fourth, Chad Mazza banged a one-out single and Gary Miles drew a two-out walk to put runners on first and second. But a hard line shot off the bat of Donovan went straight at Auburn third baseman Zanauskas, who made the catch, almost in self-defense.

"We hit the ball — we hit the ball hard," East manager Mickey Mazza said later. "But everything we hit was right at them. It was just one of those games."

East also had men on first and second in the top of the sixth, thanks to two-out singles by Chad Mazza and Little. But Corriveau bore down and struck out Miles on a 1-2 pitch to end the game. "I think if we had one more inning, we would have had a shot," said East assistant coach Mike Grogan. "We were getting right on him [Corriveau]. We just ran out of time."

When time did run out, there were, as you might expect, a few tears shed on the East bench.

"That's what's hard about this [tournament]," manager Mazza commented. "The farther you go, the harder it is to lose. But we had a great year. These kids battled all the way and I'm really proud of them. This whole thing has to be a great experience for them. I don't think they'll ever forget it. I know I won't."

The past 2½ weeks have indeed been exciting for the East stars. After sweeping three straight games to win its first Berkshire County championship in 22 years, the team then posted victories in two preliminary-round state contests. The East is the first Berkshire County team to reach the state final four since 1978.



Mark Mitchell

Hard times

Pitcher Steve Little of the Pittsfield East Little League all-stars buries his head in a towel after his team was beaten 4-0 by Auburn in the state semifinals yesterday at Leominster.

East bows in consolation; places fourth in LL states

8/8/83

LEOMINSTER — The Melrose Americans scored three runs in each of the first and fourth innings Saturday and downed the Pittsfield East all-stars 6-1 in the consolation game of the Mass. Little League state tournament.

Despite the loss, the East's second in as many days in the state final four tournament here, the Pittsfield team still finished fourth in the state, the best finish for any Berkshire County team since Pittsfield South placed third in 1978. The East, which lost to Auburn 4-0 in the semifinals on Friday, had won the Berkshire County championship for the first time in 22 years and posted two preliminary-round state wins before bowing twice here. The team finished all-star play with a record of 5-2.

Swampscott won the state championship Saturday afternoon, beating Auburn 8-4. That setback marked the second straight year Auburn has lost in the state finals.

Trailing 3-0 after a three-run Melrose first, East got back in Saturday's game when Chad Mazza singled, went to second on a passed ball, and scored on an error in the third. But Melrose wrapped up the third-place slot when Brian Crovo cracked a three-run homer for Melrose in the fourth.

LITTLE LEAGUE: Winning pitcher Geoff Dubiski belted four hits, including a home run, to lead Friendly of the West to a 13-4 win over Colt Insurance of the North in a Pittsfield Little League round robin opener last night at the Brown Street Field. Joe Carr also homered for the winners. For Colt, Eric Sprague had three hits and Rick Wendling took the loss.

In another round-robin game last night, Northeast Carpet of the East blanked Evergreen Realty of the South 8-0 to earn a semifinal berth against Friendly tomorrow at 5:30 at the West field.

Steve Little and Pat Mitchell combined for a three-hit shutout, and Little drove in four runs with a homer and two singles. Dan Stracuzzi added an inside-the-park homer for the winners. Matt Joseph took the loss.

The city championship series is scheduled to get under way with two games today at 5:30 p.m. Pittsfield Pipers of the East host Civitan of the West and East Side Pizza of the South hosts Dave's Sporting Goods of the North. The winners advance to the city championship game Saturday at either the East or West field.

AUG 10 1983

City LL series set to open

AUG 9 1983

LITTLE LEAGUE: The Pittsfield Little League city championship series is scheduled to begin Thursday with two games. West champion Civitan visits East champion Pittsfield Pipers, and North winner Dave's Sporting Goods visits South titlist East Side Pizza. Both games are scheduled at 5:30 p.m.

The winners will advance to the city championship game, scheduled Saturday at 5:30 at the home of the East-West game winner.

The city round robin tournament, for second- and third-place teams, is scheduled to begin Wednesday with four games, all at 5:30. Opening games include Friendly's vs. Colt Insurance at the north field, Evergreen Realty vs. Northeast Carpet at the east, GE Employees' Credit Union vs. Norm's Variety at the west, and Fire Department vs. Burger King at the south. Winners advance to the semifinals Friday, with the championship game scheduled Sunday.

In the East League, Pittsfield Pipers concluded an 18-2 season with a 21-11 win over Northeast Carpets. Winning pitcher Gary Miles hurled a complete game and belted two doubles and Kris Knutson had a double and two singles. For Northeast, Tom Sloan belted a grand slam and Pat Mitchell had a home run, double, single and two RBI. Dan Stracuzzi took the loss.

The Credit Union clinched its round robin berth with an 8-5 win over Moldmaster, as Robbie Coco hurled a three-hitter, struck out 11, and belted two homers to drive in three runs. Jim O'Brien had a triple, single and two RBI for Moldmaster, and Peter Lalor took the loss.

The final standings in the East found the Pipers 18-2, Northeast 15-5, the Credit Union and Moldmaster 10-10, Besse-Clarke 4-16 and Burger Chef 3-17.

* * * *

Youth baseball roundup

AUG 12 1983

Playoff tilts rained out

LITTLE LEAGUE: Rain last night washed out both semifinal games in the Pittsfield Little League city championship series, and both those games have been reset for tonight.

In those city semifinals, East League champion Pittsfield Pipers will take on West champ Civitan at the Benedict Road field, while the South champion, East Side Pizza, will face North winner Dave's Sporting Goods at Deming Field. The winners of those games will then square off for the city championship, which has also been pushed back a day and is now set for Sunday at 5:30 at the home of the Civitan-Pipers winner.

Last night's rainouts have also moved the round-robin tournament back a day.

The semifinals in that event are slated for tomorrow at 5:30, when Northeast Carpets will face Friendly's at the North League's Brown Street field, while Norm's Variety will take on Burger King at Clapp Park.

Norm's Variety, the West League runner-up, earned its berth in the semifinals by scoring a 12-2 win over the GE Employees' Credit Union on Wednesday. Winning pitcher Mitch McKnight hurled a two-hitter, struck out 12 and helped his own cause by going 4-for-4 at the plate, while teammates Kevin Ross, Anthony Campoli, Shaun Murphy and Chris Miceli had added two hits apiece.

The round-robin finals are scheduled for Monday.

* * * *



Mark Mitchell

They're No. 1

Jubilant East Side Pizza players Ed Sherman (far left) Brian Frazier (leaping, center), Matt Risley (far right) and teammates celebrate following their 4-0 victory over the Pittsfield Pipers for the Little League city championship last night at Benedict field. Story on Page 30.

Youth baseball roundup

AUG 13 1983

Pipers, East Side gain LL finals

LITTLE LEAGUE: East Side Pizza and the Pittsfield Pipers posted semifinal victories last night and will meet tomorrow at 5:30 at the Benedict Road Field to decide the Pittsfield Little League city championship.

The Pipers advanced to the city title game by rolling to a 12-0 win over Civitan last night, while East Side earned its title shot by rallying for a 9-8 victory over Dave's Sporting Goods.

At Deming Field, Eddie Sherman raced home on a wild pitch in the last half of the fifth inning, snapping an 8-8 tie and giving South League champion East Side its win over North League champ Dave's.

East Side was trailing 8-7 going to the last of the fifth, but Matt Risley and Sherman both singled and moved up to second and third on a double steal. Risley then scored on one wild pitch to tie the game, and Sherman scored the winning run moments later.

Sherman had a double and two singles to lead the East Side attack. Bob Grady, who hurled shutout ball in relief over the final two innings, was the winning pitcher.

At the Benedict Road field pitchers Chad Mazza and Brian Lefaive combined on a one-hitter and Gary Miles knocked in three runs as the East League champion Pittsfield Pipers roared to an easy win over West champ Civitan.

Brian Kellar had two hits for the Pipers, while Eric Layden's single was the only hit for Civitan.

The Pittsfield Little League round-robin tournament will continue tonight, with Friendly's meeting Northeast Carpets at the Brown Street field while Norm's Variety will meet Burger King at Clapp Park. Both those games are set to start at 5:30. The winners will meet for the round-robin title on Monday.

* * * *

Little League championship

East Side, 4-0

East Side Pizza	ab	r	h	bi	Pittsfield Pipers	ab	r	h	bi
Mazzeo, 3b	3	0	0	0	Woitkoski 2b	1	0	0	0
Elias, 2b	2	2	1	0	Sullock, 2b	1	0	0	0
Risley, c	2	2	1	1	Kellar, 3b	3	0	1	0
Sherman, ss	3	0	1	0	Lefaive ss-p	3	0	2	0
Frazier, 1b	3	0	1	1	Mazza p-1b	3	0	0	0
Herman, lf	0	0	0	0	Miles 1b-ss	2	0	0	0
Dondi, lf	0	0	0	0	Donovan, c	3	0	1	0
Brutnell, lf	1	0	0	0	Taylor, cf	3	0	0	0
R.Grady, p	3	0	1	0	Knutson lfrf	2	0	0	0
T.Grady, rf	2	0	0	0	Russo, rf	0	0	0	0
Zopf, rf	1	0	0	0	Knussmann lf	1	0	0	0
Pelletier cf	2	0	0	0					
Totals	22	4	5	2	Totals	22	0	4	0

East Side 202 000 —4

E—East Side-1, Pipers-2; DP—Pipers-1; LOB—East Side-4, Pipers-7; 2B—Risley; SB—Risley, Sherman.

	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
R. Grady	6	4	0	0	3	6
Mazza	2⅔	3	4	1	5	1
Lefaive	3⅓	2	0	0	0	2

WP—Mazza.

AUG 15 1983

30—The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, August 15, 1983

Youth baseball roundup

East Side wins LL title

By Carol Sliwa

Defense and the pitching of Rob Grady, who fired a four-hitter, boosted East Side Pizza to a 4-0 triumph over the Pittsfield Pipers for the Little League city championship last night at Benedict field.

East Side coach Brian Jones, noting that "we don't score many runs," said the victory came in characteristic fashion. Grady held the Pipers in check as the defense — led by several fielding gems by 10-year-old third baseman Mike Mazzeo — committed just one error.

That, coupled with the ability of 2-3-4 hitters Dan Elias, Matt Risley and Ed Sherman to take advantage of two clutch scoring opportunities, accounted for all of East Side's runs. "That was the whole heart of the team [offensively] all year," Jones said of the trio.

With one out in the first inning, Elias walked. He scampered to second on a wild pitch and took third on a stolen-base attempt, as Piper third baseman Brian Kellar lost the ball during the collision with Elias. Risley then ripped a shot past third, sending Elias home with the first run, and held on second base for a double.

Sherman singled Risley to third, and moments later, Risley raced home as Sherman was thrown out attempting to steal second.

East Side struck again with one out in the third inning. Elias took first base on a fielder's choice, and Risley walked. Sherman reached on an error, sending Elias home with the third run. Brian Frazier then punched a perfect bunt down the third-base line, plating Risley with the fourth and final run.

Meanwhile, the Pipers were having their problems at the plate handling the pitching of Grady. "He moved the ball in and out, and he made us hit his pitching," said Pipers coach Mickey Mazza, whose team claimed the East League crown 12-0 last Friday over Civitan. "I thought the hitting would come through, but for some reason it didn't tonight."

The Pipers suffered their first shutout of the season, as Grady walked three and struck out six and East Side played error-free ball for the first five innings. No Piper reached second base until the fourth inning, but a stop by Mazzeo quickly halted that minor threat.

However, East Side's first and only miscue of the game nearly opened the door for a Pipers rally in the sixth. The Pipers loaded the bases with one out — with Kellar rapping the only hit of the threat — but Grady toughened to strike out the next batter, and a groundout to shortstop ended the game.

The Pipers' pitching and defense was far from shabby, either. Only two of the four runs off starting pitcher Chad Mazza were earned, with each of the Pipers' two errors figuring in East Side's runs. Brian Lefaive, who had two of the Pipers' four hits, came on to pitch 3⅓ innings of shutout ball, allowing just two hits, walking no one and striking out two.

The shutout for Grady was his second of the Little League playoffs. He pitched a one-hitter in the first-half South titlist's 2-0 victory over second-half champion Burger King for the South League crown.

Youth baseball roundup

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* * * *

BABE RUTH: General Electric earned a berth in the city championship series, and GEAA won the National Division round-robin championship in Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League baseball action Saturday.

GE captured the American Division championship with a come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Besse-Clarke. That win earned the team a trip to the best-of-three city championship against National champion IUE 255. That series begins tonight at 5 at Benedict Road field. The second game is scheduled for Wednesday at 5 at Deming. The third game, if necessary, will be played at a date and place to be announced.

GE spotted Besse-Clarke a 2-0 lead in the first two innings at Benedict Road on Saturday, as losing pitcher Mike Chapman belted an RBI double and his team scored another run on an error.

GE rallied for three runs in the third, thanks to RBI singles from Marty Streit and Jeff Russell, plus a run-scoring grounder by Joe Esposito.

Winning pitcher Jeff Astore then shut the door, blanking Besse-Clarke on two hits and striking out 10 over the last five innings. Steve Gniadek also hurled well in relief, giving up no hits and striking out eight in four innings for Besse-Clarke.

Dan Martin hurled a complete game, struck out nine and added two doubles and a single as GEAA won the National Division round-robin title with a 17-9 victory over Lipton Energy.

Jim Clark added a double, two singles and two RBI; Bill Noble had a double and single, and Mark Blanchard and Steve Godinho had two hits each for the winners. For Lipton, Cliff Newton went 4-for-4 with two RBI and Pat Tierney had three hits and two RBI.

GEAA's opponent in the round-robin final will be determined this week, as the American Division round robin is just getting under way. Today, Besse-Clarke plays Arace at Reid Middle School and Adams faces Gildo's at Deming, both at 5:30. The winners play tomorrow at 5:30 at Benedict, and that winner will earn the right to meet GEAA in the championship game. The date and site of the title game will be announced later.

* * * *

CHESHIRE YOUNGSTERS: The Cheshire Youngsters League all-star team will host the North Adams Central all-stars tonight at 6 at the Cheshire School field. The Cheshire League's annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday at 11 a.m., also at the school field. All players in the league, their parents, coaches and umpires are invited.



Mark Mitchell

RECOVERING to tag out East Side Pizza runner Ed Sherman (7) after a pitch from Brian Lefaive (8) slipped past him last night at Benedict field is Pittsfield Pipers' catcher Tim Donovan. Umpire Joe Marziello is about to make the call. East Side won the Little League city championship game 4-0.

See back of next page

MAR 15 1983

* * * *

SOFTBALL MEETING: The Berkshire County Slow Pitch Softball Association has scheduled its second organizational meeting for the 1983 season tonight at 7 at Springside House, 874 North St.

League president Bob Shade said it is important for any new team interested in joining the league to attend tonight's meeting. The final date to register a team is March 29.

Items on the agenda tonight include fund-raisers, distribution of raffle tickets, setting up divisions, advertising and field preparation. The league is scheduled to open its second season at the Berkshire County Softball Complex May 23, with at least three divisions.

League treasurer Jim Bridges said that although the team entry fee this season has jumped from last year's $575 to about $700, league fund-raisers are planned that will keep the total fee at about the same level as last season.

* * * *

MAR 29 1983

SOFTBALL MEETING: The Berkshire County Slow Pitch Softball Association has scheduled its third organizational meeting for tonight at 7 at Springside House, 874 North St. A registration fee of $25 for any team planning to play this season is due tonight.

Items on the agenda will include division breakdowns, rules changes and the election of officers. The league has 27 teams registered for this season and is seeking at least one more to create a four-division setup.

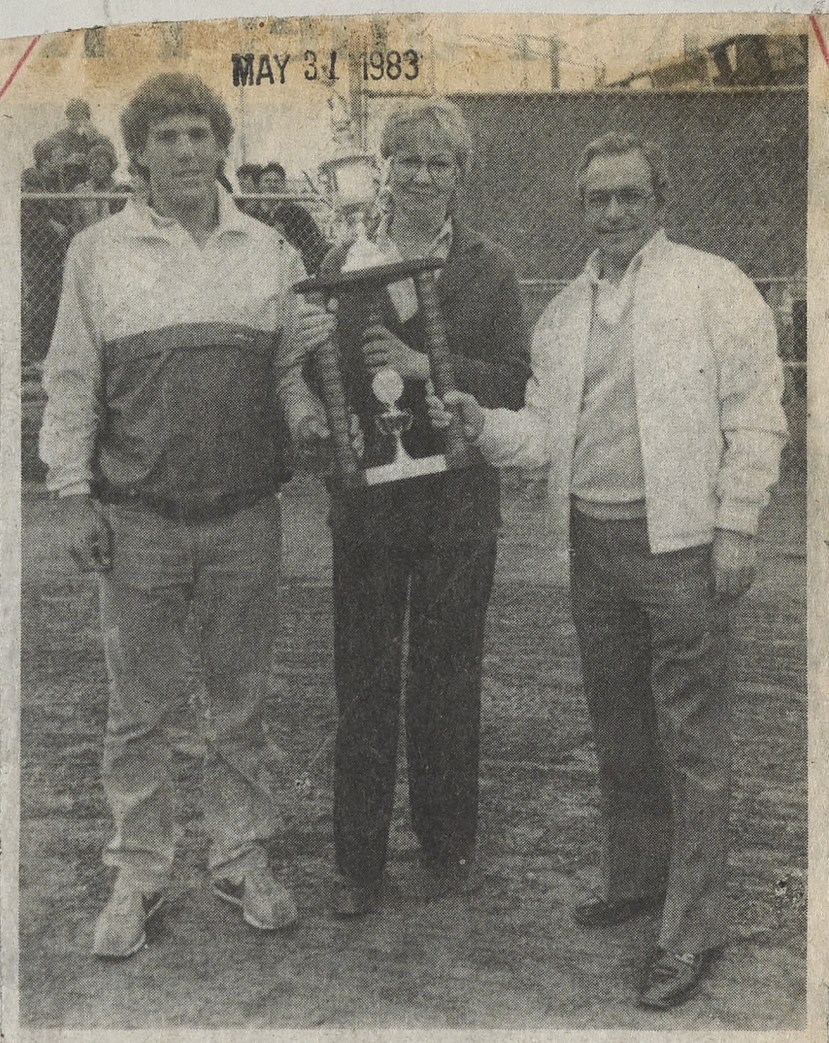
The next meeting is scheduled for April 12 at the softball complex on East Street. The league is slated to open May 23.

* * * *

DALTON SOFTBALL: The Dalton Fast-Pitch Softball League has scheduled a meeting for tonight at 7 at the Dalton Community House. All team representatives should attend, and the league schedule will be handed out. The league is scheduled to open May 23.

MAY 2 1983

MAY 31 1983



Bob McDonough

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS during Sunday's Al Bianchi Memorial Softball Tournament were made to St. Joseph's athlete Tim Rivers, left, who received the $500 Al Bianchi scholarship, and Mrs. Connie Bianchi, center, who accepted a trophy from state softball commissioner John Marchesi, right, marking induction of her late husband, Al, into the Massachusetts Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame.



Susan Plageman

CITY CHAMPION in the Pittsfield Little League is the East Side Pizza team of the South League. Team members, seated behind mascot Michael Jones are, from left to right: FRONT ROW — Coach Brian Jones, assistant coach Ray Risley, Rob Dondi, Jonathan Herman, Dennis Pelletier, Michael Mazzeo, Mark Brutnell and Tim Grady. BACK ROW — Bryant Frazier, Brandon Krupka, Dan Elias, Rob Grady, Eric Zopf, Ed Sherman and Matt Risley. Brendan Collins was absent when the photo was taken. East Side beat East League champion Pittsfield Pipers 4-0 Sunday for the title.

Youth baseball roundup

AUG 17 1983

Northeast wins LL round-robin title

LITTLE LEAGUE: Tom Sloan cracked a bases-loaded triple and Steve Little belted a solo home run last night as Northeast Carpets of the East League downed Burger King of the South League 6-3 to win the city Little League round-robin championship at the Benedict Road field.

After spotting Burger King a 1-0 lead on Jerry Arace's RBI single in the top of the first, Northeast went ahead 3-1 on Sloan's triple in the last of the first and took a 5-1 lead when Sloan and winning pitcher Pat Mitchell delivered run-scoring singles in the second.

Little then added his team's final run with a solo homer in the fourth. Burger King scored two runs in the sixth when Arace banged another RBI single and when Matt McCusker raced home on an error. But Little, pitching in relief, nailed down the Northeast victory when he retired the final two batters to end the game.

Adult skating lessons to commence today

The season's final series of adult ice skating lessons, co-sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Pittsfield Figure Skating Club Inc., will begin today at 10 a.m. at the Boys' Club Rink on Melville Street.

The four-lesson program will run every Wednesday morning in February from 10 a.m. to noon. Each lesson will consist of instruction and free skating time.

There is a $12 fee, which is payable at the rink this morning.

Further information is available from Linda Murphy at the Park Department office, 874 North St.

Feb. 2, 1983

* * * *

WEST STATE SOCCER: The Pittsfield Itam Soccer Club will meet the St. Michael's Rovers of Chicopee on Sunday in a 2:30 p.m. West State League senior amateur soccer game at Clapp Park.

The Itam club goes into the game with a record of 0-1, while St. Michael's is 2-0.

Pittsfield's other senior team, the Teo's International Soccer Club, will be on the road Sunday, taking on the Springfield Metros at Springfield Technical Community College. Game time there is set for 3.

Teo's is 0-0-1 in the league this spring, and the Metros are 2-0.

April 22, 1983

* * * *

YOUTH SOCCER: The Pittsfield Parks Department Summer Soccer League is looking for adults to serve as coaches and administrators for the league this season.

The league served over 250 players in three divisions from age 7 through 17 last summer. But league officials stressed that if adult volunteers can not be found, the league will not be able to continue this year.

An organizational meeting for all adults interested in helping the program will be held Wednesday night at 7:30 at the Parks Department headquarters in the Springside House on upper North Street.

An instructional clinic to explain rules and simple coaching techniques for all new coaches is scheduled for Monday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the YMCA.

Anyone interested in helping with the program, but will be unable to attend the organizational meeting, should contact league directors Al Belanger or Peter Larkin.

May 6, 1983

SOCCER REGISTRATION: The Pittsfield Parks Department summer soccer league will conduct registration and tryouts June 4, 6 and 7 at the Taconic High field. The Saturday session will be at 10 a.m. and the next two will be at 6:30 p.m.

According to Pete Larkin, one of the league's 15 directors, anyone interested in playing must sign up in person on these dates, regardless of whether they have previously played in the program. Players, Larkin said, will be charged an $8 equipment fee to pay for league expenses and a jersey that they can keep.

The league has reformed into three divisions, for players aged 7 to 9, 10 to 12 and 13 to 15. This year, a county league for boys aged 16 to 17 will be run independently from the Parks Department League, Larkin said.

There will be a meeting of coaches and officials June 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Department headquarters at 874 North St. Coaches and officials are still being sought, and persons interested in assuming these tasks may contact Larkin at 24 Blythewood Drive, or Al Belanger at 118 Wealthy Ave.

May 31, 1983

* * * *

SUMMER SOCCER: The Rowdies scored a pair of Senior Division triumphs to open play in the Pittsfield Parks Department Summer Soccer League.

The Rowdies downed the Cosmos 2-1 in the league opener and topped the Tea Men 7-1 behind a four-goal effort from John Quinto. In other Senior games, the Metros downed the Tea Men 4-3 and played the Cosmos to a 3-3 tie.

In the Junior Division, Al Barbalunga pumped in four goals to lead the Metros to a 7-0 romp over the Tea Men. The Metros also downed the Cosmos 2-1, while the Cosmos edged the Stars 1-0 and the Stars topped the Tea Men by a 10-2 count.

In Peewee Division action, the Cosmos grabbed the early lead by downing the Rowdies 4-0 and posting a 7-4 triumph over the Metros. Eric Keegan had five goals in the win over the Metros.

In other Peewee action, the Metros blanked the Tea Men 4-0 and the Rowdies edged the Teas 1-0.

June 29, 1983

SUMMER SOCCER: Tim Grady pumped in all five goals to lead the unbeaten Cosmos to a 5-4 win over the Metros in the Peewee Division of the Pittsfield Park Department's Summer Soccer League.

The Cosmos, who lead the Peewee Division with a record of 6-0, also defeated both the Tea Men and the Rowdies by scores of 5-2.

The Metros also posted a pair of triumphs, downing the Rowdies 2-1 and topping the Tea Men by a 3-1 count. The Metros are in second place in the Peewee Division with a 3-2 record.

In Junior Division play, Seth Greenfeld scored four goals as the Cosmos downed the Tea Men 8-1. The Cosmos also beat the Stars by an 8-1 count, and also beat the Tea Men, again 5-2. The Metros lead the division with a record of 5-0, while the Cosmos are 4-2.

In the Senior Division, the league-leading Rowdies raised their record to 4-1 by beating the Metros twice, by scores of 3-2 and 2-0. In other action, the Metros edged the Tea Men 2-1, and the Cosmos upended the Rowdies 1-0, downed the Metros 4-1 and played the Tea Men to a 3-3 tie.

July 15, 1983

Speed skating is a favored sport in the Berkshires

By DAVID A. VALLETTE
Republican Correspondent

PITTSFIELD — It may not be a sport on everyone's lips, but for some Berkshire residents speed skating plays a major life role.

For the Vilots of Lee, Saturday's Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships on Pontoosuc Lake, despite a snow storm with biting blizzard-like winds, represented another welcome chance to participate as a family in a special sport.

Melissa, 7, competing among the "pee wees," David, 12, who skates against other "midgets," and Heather, 13, vying in the "juvenile" class, all belong to the 15-member Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club — a club that has provided speed skating opportunities for 40 years.

The three Vilot children are following in the skating tracks of their mother, the former Martha Brown of Pittsfield, who, as a teenager, along with her brother, James "Moose" Brown, were well-known figures on the speed-skating scene in the Berkshires.

But they are also the product of their father, Thomas Vilot, whose physical disability precludes donning skates but does not diminish his coaching, assistance and rooting abilities. It was Pop who oversaw the efforts of the children Saturday while Mom was at work, unable to attend.

While it is primarily for the fun of it that Melissa speeds across the ice, for her older brother and sister, the quest for competitve edge is already beginning to take over. They have begun to realize the importance of daily exercise and the effort that must go into the sport in order to keep up with the competition.

It's a year-round sport for the Vilots, even though the outdoor ice is available for only the coldest months. There are weekly sessions with coach Mary Lou Dinacola at the Pittsfield Boys' Club indoor rink. And there is a special summer program available at speed skating's regional mecca — Saratoga, N.Y.

But the program here is not as healthy as it should be nor as it once was, according to Coach Dinacola, who was probably the best speed skater to come from the Pittsfield club, making it to the national and North American championships during her heyday.

Winters such as the current season, in which usable outdoor ice has been at a premium because of mild temperatures, do not help the cause, she says. Not only is the club relegated to only one hour per week at the indoor rink, the one hour that is available is from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. — hardly conducive to practice time for the younger members of the club.

The only other rink in the count is in North Adams, which presents a transportation problem for many members, she said.

Also a problem is the cost of a pair of speed skates — from $400 to $500, Mr. Vilot laments. The problem is generally solved by going the hand-me-down route, almost a necessity when growing feet make a pair of skates unusable after one season of use.

The cost problem is also overcome by the City Parks Department which maintains used skates for those just getting started in the sport. Once the commitment is there and a budding skater decides to pursue the sport, the better skates will then have to be secured, however, Dinacola said.

The club provides uniforms for the members, an expense accommodated through all-pitch-in fund-raising efforts, saving that from adding to the skate costs.

For those who missed Saturday's outdoor events, on Feb. 20 the club's annual indoor championships will be held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink on South Church Street in North Adams — the final event in this year's carnival.

FEB 16 1983

Goguen sweeps skate titles

SPEED SKATING: Alex Goguen of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club continued to chalk up speed skating trophies in his age 60-64 category, sweeping all four events in the recent Senior Outdoor Olympics at Lake Placid and four of six events at last weekend's World Championship Senior Speed Skating and World Senior Sprint Championship races in Ottowa, Canada.

At Lake Placid, he won the 200-meter in 20.64, the 500-meter in 48.26; the 1,000-meter in 1:43.67 and the 1,500-meter in 2:37.43. In Canada, he won all four World Senior Overall events, the 200 in 21.3, the 500 in 51.3, the 1,000 in 1:56.3 and the 1,500 in 2:54.1, setting records in the 200 and 1,500. He won the Sprint championships in the 200 and 400.

Goguen will compete Saturday in the Senior Indoor Olympics at Long Beach, N.Y.

FEB 24 1983
10 Years Ago

Joanne Farry of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club won the championship trophy in the intermediate girls' division in the eighth annual Pittsfield indoor speed-skating championships conducted at Wilde Sports Center in Lenox.

FEB 28 1983

SPEED SKATING: Alex Goguen of Pittsfield captured the Masters title at the Capital District Outdoor Speed Skating Championships held recently in Lake Placid, N.Y. Goguen won the 300, 500 and 1,500 meter events and placed second in the 1,000 and 3,000 meter races.

Goguen also won the Masters Crown in the New York State Indoor Championships held last Saturday in Long Beach, N.Y., placing first in the 500, 800, 1,000 and 1,500 meter races. On that same day, Goguen, competing in the Senior Indoor Olympics at Long Beach, swept the 200, 400 and 800 meter races and placed second in the 1,500 meter race.



Mark Mitchell

TAKING THE TURN around a toppled pylon, speed skater Joe Franz heads for the finish line during the final event of Brodie Mountain's Bud Light Pentathlon Saturday at the Pittsfield Boys' Club. He helped lead his Bud Light Eagles to a team victory in the pentathlon.

FEB 28 1983

151.



Mark Mitchell

LEADING THE PACK, as usual, is 62-year-old Pittsfield skater Alex Goguen, shown en route to his victory in the Masters 500-meter final during yesterday's Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating Championships in North Adams. He won the overall Masters championship.

Winter Carnival finale

FEB 21 1983

Pittsfield's Goguen and Mendonsa win titles at indoor speed skating

NORTH ADAMS — Pittsfield skaters Alex Goguen and Marka Mendonsa captured individual championships and their Pittsfield Speed Skating Club finished second yesterday as the Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating Championships attracted 76 skaters to the Vietnam Veterans Rink.

Seven records were smashed in the competition, which was the concluding event of the 38th annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

Goguen, the 62-year-old national champion, swept the 500-meter, 800-meter and 1,500-meter events to win the championship of the Masters Class. The 12-year-old Mendonsa swept the 300-meter, 400-meter and 600-meter races to capture the girls' midget division title.

The Saratoga, N.Y., team retired the team trophy with its third victory in the championships, piling up 159 points with 17 skaters. Pittsfield took second place with 71 points from eight skaters. Bay State was third with 66 points from 11 skaters. The finish was the best in several years by the Pittsfield club.

The records broken included four Association records, which are open to all skaters in the meet, and three District records, which include only members of the Northern New York Skating Association. The Pittsfield club is a member of that group.

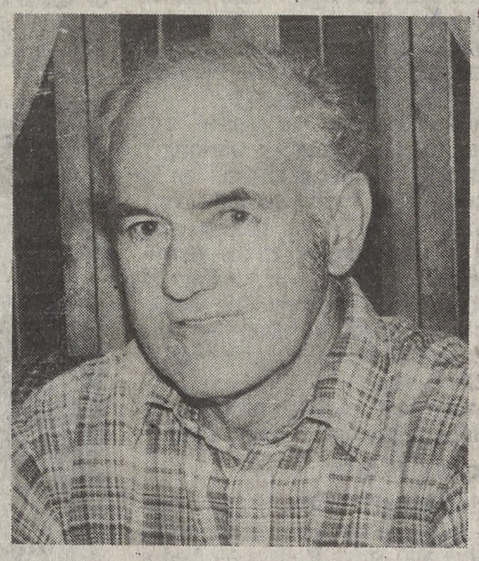
The Association records set (with the old records in parentheses) were by Fred Cole of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., with 1:23.39 (1:27.4) in the senior men's 800, George Nowell of Winchester with 1:33.78 (1:35.6) in the intermediate boys' 800, Paul Provencher of Westlake, Ohio, with 3:05.22 (3:07.9) in the intermediate boys' 1,500 and Tim Quinn of Ohio with 36.22 (37.04) in the midget boys' 300.

District records set were by Mary Brophy of Saratoga Springs with 42.13 (Mendonsa's 43.08) in the pony girls' 300, Bonny Jo Reid of Ballston Spa, N.Y., with 1:39.07 (1:41.9) in the senior women's 800 and Reid again with 3:14.77 (3:22.2) in the senior women's 1,500.

The only other victories by Pittsfield club skaters were by Shauna Clement in the novice pee wee 100 and by Marie Mendonsa in the novice pee wee 150.

Several other Pittsfield skaters had fine performances, with Alicia Sacco of Pittsfield taking a second and two thirds in the midget girls, Heather Vilot of Lee taking three seconds in the junior girls, Missy Vilot of Lee taking a second and two thirds in the pee wee girls, David Vilot of Lee taking a second and two thirds in the midget boys and Marisa Mendonsa of Pittsfield capturing a second and three fourths in the pee wee and novice pee wee girls.

Newly-crowned Winter Carnival Queen Sandra Brooks presented the trophies.



"Speed skating was always a very social sport," Alex Goguen said. "People would put you up overnight in their homes and feed you, and they would even offer to pack you a lunch for the event or your trip home. They were just wonderful . . ."

44 years of speed skating reviewed

In Sampler Sports 3, Ken Keehnle tells the Alex Goguen story — while Roxy Rothafel writes on golf, Steve Moore on a Williams' squash player, Mike Bass on boxing, Dr. Timothy Johnson on high blood pressure and game-playing. You'll find it all in the April 24

Berkshire Sampler

APR 23 1983

* MAR 8 1983

SPEED SKATING: Marka Mendonsa of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating CLub placed third in the midget girls' class at the Eastern Seaboard Indoor Speed Skating Championships over the weekend at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Mendonsa was second in the 400-meter race, third in the 500- and 600-meter events, and wound up fifth in the 300-meter competition when she fell after holding the early lead.

The meet was sponsored by the Olympic Regional Development Authority and sanctioned by the Northern New York Skating Association.

* * * *

SPEED SKATING: Marcia Mendonsa of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club finished second overall in the midget girls' division of the Middle Atlantic/Hudson Valley Indoor Speed Skating Championships on Saturday in Yonkers, N.Y., the final speed skating event of the season in the Northeast. In individual events, she was second in the 400-meter, third in the 600-meter and fourth in the 300-meter races.

APR 5 1983

MAR 18 1983

10 Years Ago

Pittsfield residents had their first look at the interior of the Riverview West apartments when the Druker Co., development firm for the 120-unit complex, held an open house. More than 200 applications had been filed by prospective tenants for apartments in the West Street complex.

Juvenile boy Kurt Hospot of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club won the class championship at the Atlantic Coast indoor speed-skating meet in Bridgeport, Conn.

10 Years Ago

Pittsfield's population dropped slightly for the third straight year and stood at 56,613, according to the annual city census. The city recorded its largest population in 1963 when it had 58,561 people.

Raymond Hospot was elected president of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club for the 1973-74 season. He succeeded Mario Tassinari, who was elected vice president.

APR 13 1983

April 28, 1983

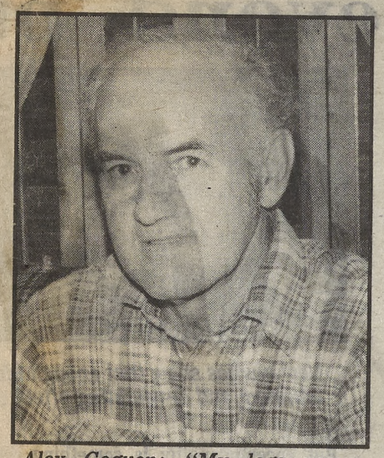
2 Pittsfield women are named to offices in skating association

Patricia A. Peaslee of 116 Shore Drive and Mary T. Smith of 97 Brombach St. were elected as first vice president and second vice president, respectively, of the Northern New York Skating Association at the group's annual meeting Sunday in Albany, N.Y.

Both women also. were elected delegates to the Amateur Skating Union of the United States convention to be held in St. Louis, Mo., in May.

Mrs. Smith was also appointed secretary-treasurer of the association, a position she has held for several years, by the newly elected president, Mrs. Richard O'Brien of Ballston Spa, N.Y.

Alex Goguen: 44 years in speed skating



Alex Goguen: "My legs never went on me."

By Ken Keehnle

PITTSFIELD

It's been 44 years since Alex Goguen first donned a pair of racing skates. And that period of time has reaped a harvest of 150 trophies, plus various ribbons, all stored in the Goguen home on MacArthur Street here.

Alex will tell you it's no big deal. He actually tried to downplay his role as Pittsfield's most winning speed skater over the years, and he had a hard time adjusting to the fact that anybody would want to interview him. He said: "It's my way (speed skating) of getting some exercise. Speed skating is not my only activity; I bow hunt and I ride a bike, too."

But every winter since Alex Goguen came to Pittsfield, his has been the name that has stood out locally in the sport of speed skating. Alex has left his mark all over the Northeast — in Syracuse, in Lake Placid, in Plattsburgh, N.Y. In fact, in every city in New England and New York state, where a skating event was being held, the name of Alex Goguen has become known and honored in skating circles.

Goguen's best year was 1953, in which he won the Northeast title, competing against many younger men in a combination of events over a three-day period. However, Goguen has never had what could be called a bad year; in all the years of competition, Alex has either won a trophy, made a friend or made a contribution that made each event a memorable one.

• • •

It really all began when Alex's family moved from Maine to Fitchburg. His brothers and friends had been skiers prior to the move. But, he said, "There just weren't many hills in Fitchburg to ski on, and since we were outdoors type people, I borrowed a pair of skates from my brother-in-law and went skating for some fresh air and some exercise."

It didn't take long before Alex was into competition and making a mark in the sport. In fact, it was through speed skating that Goguen wound up in Pittsfield. Enter now Jackson Perry, who was the Pittsfield parks department superintendent then, and who was a speed skating fan. Perry met Alex at an event in Fitchburg, was impressed with him and his skating and offered him a job in the parks department. Between Perry and Goguen speed skating was thus introduced to this city, opening an era in which Pittsfield produced speed skaters who were among the most outstanding in New England. It was during that time that Nancy Ann Viner won the hearts of Pittsfield sports fans by winning a National Figure Skating title that catapulted her to instant heroism in the hearts of Pittsfield citizens.



Photos by Ken Keehnle

Each evening, Goguen goes through the motions on a five-foot Formica training board in his living room.

But it wasn't all glory for Alex, in spite of the trophies and the ribbons. He was competing, of course, and coaching the local club as well. The long training hours for himself, the coaching commitment, the many miles of traveling to competitive events were downright hard work. He often traveled to meets alone, in his own car, at his own expense. In addition to bringing home the trophies, Goguen also made a lot of friends. It was this that helped him survive financially on the speed skating circuit and also helped the young skaters coming behind him.

"Speed skating was always a very social sport," Goguen said. "People would put you up overnight in their homes and feed you, and they would even offer to pack you a lunch for the event or your trip home. They were just wonderful people, all of them. They made going on the circuit (speed skating) a pleasure."

Goguen and his wife, Pat, also entertained many guests at their home over the years, and the list of friends Alex and Pat have, throughout the Northeast, is a formidably long one.

Not many people stick to one thing and do it well, over a long period of time, as Goguen did with speed skating. Why? Alex explained: "I guess it's because I try to finish what I start. I enjoyed the sport, I enjoyed the people, and I enjoyed the competition. Even when I was beaten, I was still friends with the man who beat me. But I would immediately begin to figure how to beat that man the next time I raced him. And if I did, the man was my friend after the race was over. It was always that way in speed skating. I don't know how else to say it: They were nice people, they were also dedicated people."

Okay, so Alex was productive, making his mark, making lifetime friends, becoming Pittsfield's living legend in speed skating. How?

"My legs never went on me," Goguen said. "I don't know what it is, but I've been blessed with good legs, and I've tried hard to keep them in good shape."

Goguen cycles four to five miles a day — on a five-speed bike, rather than a 10. He runs at least twice a week. And when he's in training, he'll up that pace considerably. In the fall, Goguen will hunt deer with a bow and arrow, which requires a lot of walking. He bagged five deer — he hunts in five states — one year, and considers the bow and arrow an art form in hunting, while he gets his exercise and his fresh air.

With Goguen, it's the outdoors that's important. All of his hobbies are predicated in that direction. And it looks as if it will always be that way with Alex, a remarkable physical specimen who recently retired at age 62.

For the past 10 years, Alex has been into master skating. And even though the Masters program finds him pitted against 18-year-olds, it doesn't bother the man. He said: "I've beaten a lot of 18-year-olds, since the time I began skating. So if one beats me now, it may just be the Lord's way of saying time is catching up with me."

Does Goguen intend to quit? "Not as long as my legs feel good," he said. In fact he's contemplating a trip to Europe to compete in a 12-day event, spread out in several countries, if he can work out a way to cope with the expense. The man is still good, so it's to be hoped he gets a chance to prove how good by taking that trip to Europe. He'd be an ideal representative, a gentleman still making his mark in one of the less talked-about lifetime sports. ■

25 Years Ago

Veteran speed skater Alex Goguen with navigator John Willis won the Berkshire Motor Sports Club gymkhana at the Allendale Shopping Center parking lot.

June 30, 1983

OCT 7 1983

Speed skating club to organize Tuesday

The Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club will hold an organizational meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Springside House at 874 North St.

Membership in the club is open to boys and girls, men and women, regardless of age or skating ability. The club has weekly indoor practice sessions at the Boys' Club rink and has a limited supply of speed skates to loan to members.

Further information may be obtained by calling Mrs. Carl Peaslee at the Recreation Department office.

OCT 8 1983

Registration set for beginners skating classes

The Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club will conduct a registration session for its annual learn-to-skate program on Tuesday from 7 to 7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Department office, 874 North St.

The clinic will run at the Boys' Club rink from 6 to 7 p.m. for five consecutive days, from Monday, Oct. 17, through Friday, Oct. 21.

The first half-hour of ice time will be devoted to instruction and the second half-hour to practice. On Friday, fun races will be held along with a mini-speed-skating clinic for those interested. The program is for Pittsfield residents only and is open to boys and girls in kindergarten through Grade 12.

No phone registrations will be accepted. However, if vacancies remain following the Tuesday evening registration, phone registrations will be accepted on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Recreation Department office.

A $6 registration fee will be charged to help defray the cost of the program. Further information may be obtained by calling the Recreation Department office.

153.

Speed Skating Club sets indoor sessions

The Pittsfield Parks Speed Sating Club will begin its indoor speed skating sessions on Sunday at the Pittsfield Boys' Club rink.

Sunday sessions will be from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday night sessions will begin Oct. 25 and will run from 8:30 to 9:30.

The local club will conduct a membership drive in conjunction with National Speed Skating Week, Oct. 23-30. Anyone interested in speed skating, regardless of age and ability, is eligible for three practice sessions free of charge.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Mrs. Carl Peaslee at the Recreation Department office, 874 North St.

OCT 20 1983

Arthur Ruff captures BCC bicycle race

OCT 24 1983

Pittsfield's Arthur Ruff captured the eighth annual Berkshire Community College 14-mile bike marathon Saturday in a near-photo finish over Pittsfield's Dan Conway and sanctioned cyclist Eileen Furey.

The race attracted 98 cyclists, of whom 92 finished.

Ruff stayed with the front pack of 15 or 20 riders throughout the race, which ran through Pittsfield and Lanesboro, before breaking for the lead with Conway and Furey (an unofficial entry) toward the finish.

"The pack sort of stayed together for the whole race. I thought it was going to be a big confusion at the finish," said Ruff. "I didn't take the lead until the last few yards."

The 36-year-old cyclist nipped Conway by just 7/10 of a second and Furey by just 9/10 in winning not only the 36-55 age division but, unexpectedly, the entire race as well.

"I was happy to get first in my division," said Ruff, who began training seriously at the end of last year. "Toward the end of the race I knew I had enough to win."

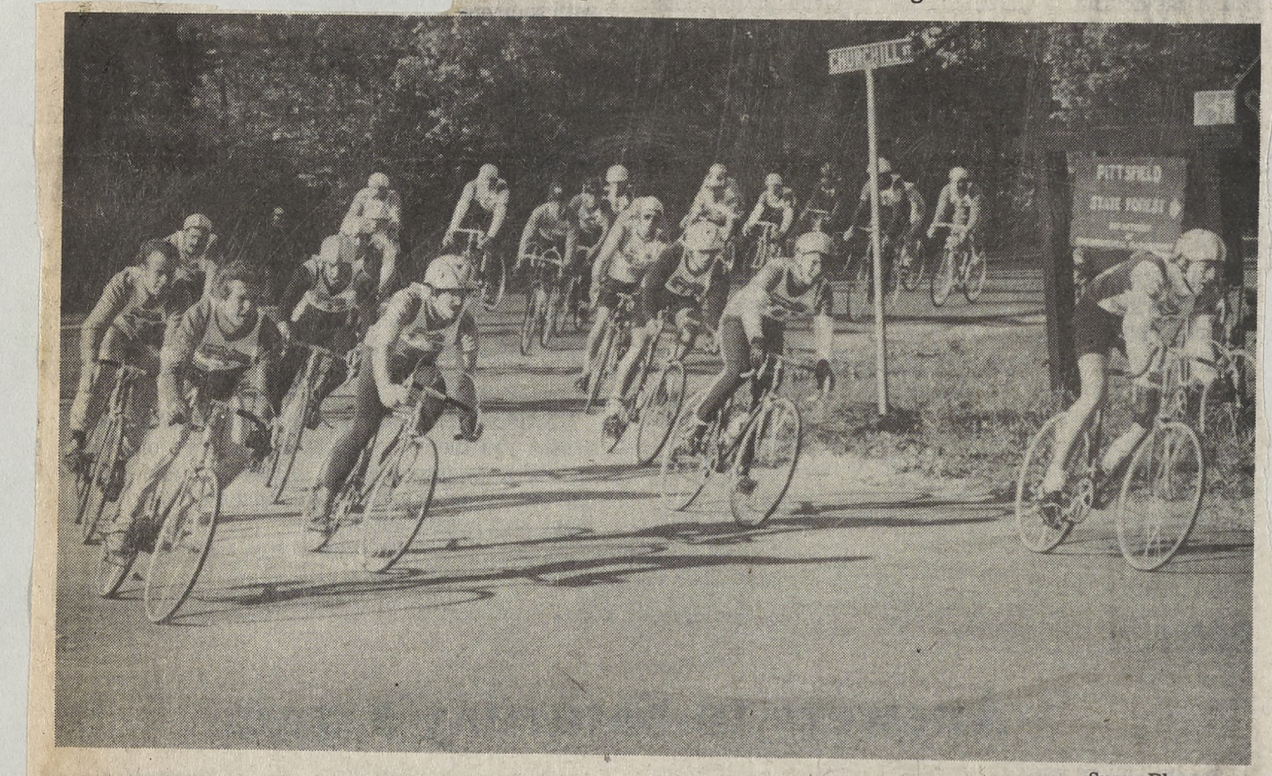
He finished the course in 37 minutes, 45.4 seconds — well off the course record of 37:01.1 set in 1981 by Bob Donovan of West Springfield. Conway turned in a 37:46.1 clocking, with Furey just behind at 37:46.3.

Since Furey was an unofficial competitor, and thus ineligible for trophies, Peter Burta of Pittsfield was awarded third place, with a time of 37:49.3. Bob Moynihan was fourth in 37:49.5 followed by Wahconah Regional High School student Eric Whiting of Peru in 37:49.7.

Whiting also claimed first place in his male high school division. Kim Perone of Pittsfield High was the first finisher in the girls' high school division with a clocking of 50:26.1.

Saturday's race marked the first time the annual event has been run in the fall. The marathon formerly was held in April, but a scheduling conflict forced the race to be moved up to October.

A complete list of prize winners may be found on the Scoreboard on Page 34.



Susan Plageman

ROUNDING THE CORNER from West Street to Churchill Road are the leaders of Saturday's Berkshire Community College Bicycle Marathon 14-mile race.

* * * *

SCATTER SHOTS: For the record, veteran bowhunter Alex Goguen of Pittsfield killed five deer this year to bring his total kill by bow and arrow to 63, matching his age. This weekend he will resume his speed-skating career by competing in a meet at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Looking ahead to next spring, Quabbin Reservoir anglers may start catching a few brown trout for a change. The McLaughlin state hatchery stocked 70,000 yearlings last fall that should be up to 8-10 inches when the season opens.

DEC 30 1983

* *APR 5 *1983

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL: An organizational meeting for the Berkshire County Women's Slow Pitch Softball League has been scheduled for Thursday night at 7 at Springside House, 874 North St. Anyone interested in entering a team in the league should attend the meeting.

* * * *

SENIOR BABE RUTH: The Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League will conduct a tryout session tonight at Wahconah Park. The session is scheduled to start at 6:30, immediately after the conclusion of the Pittsfield-Taconic high school game, which starts at 4.

All players between the ages of 16 and 18 are welcome to register and try out.

JUN 2 1983

Adams team wins 1st-half senior title

SENIOR BABE RUTH: Mike Petithory outdueled Cliff Smead in an outstanding pitching matchup Tuesday night as Adams won the first-half championship in the Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League by beating Maiorano's 3-1.

Petithory pitched a two-hitter, while Smead gave up just three hits despite taking the loss. Bruce Zieba had an RBI double to lead the Adams offense. A single by Todd Whitehill knocked in the only run for Maiorano's.

In other action, Mark Zorbo had two hits and winning pitcher Kevin Stannard boosted his own cause with an RBI single as Maiorano's downed Sons of Italy 11-2. Jeff Wallace had two singles and a double for Itam.

Chris Cadenelli hurled a three-hitter and Jeff Costa banged out a pair of hits to lead Mystic Lodge over Maiorano's by a 9-3 count. In another scheduled game, Eagles won over Dalton by forfeit.

* * * *

July 14, 1983

Senior Babe Ruth all-star team opens tourney play tomorrow

7-21-83

The Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League all-star team will open play in the Western State 16-to-18-year-old Babe Ruth League baseball tournament tomorrow at noon at Mackenzie Field in Holyoke.

The Pittsfield team will face the Tri-County district champion, Holy Cross of Springfield, in a first-round game tomorrow. If Pittsfield wins that game, the local seniors will then play a second-round winners' bracket game Saturday at 2 p.m. against Worcester Central. If the Pittsfield club loses, the team would then drop into the losers' bracket and play Saturday morning at 11.

The tournament is an eight-team double-elimination event that will run through Saturday, July 30, with two days next week set aside as rain dates. The tournament is being hosted by defending champion Holyoke, and all games will be played at Mackenzie Field.

The Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League this year expanded to include entries from Adams and Dalton, and the team's roster reflectes that, including Hoosac Valley pitcher Mike Petithory, a member of the Adams Co-Op Bank team, and Wahconah Regional players Tim Brophy and Dan Myrick. Other leading players include Taconic pitcher Pat Anello, former Taconic hurler Cliff Smead, THS outfielder Kevin Stannard, Hoosac shortstop Bruce Zieba and Pittsfield High outfielder Paul Cancilla.

Other players include Scott Haring, Bob Gagnon, Mike Gladu, Wayne McCauley, Tim Miller, Bob Munger, Eric Shiner, Tony Trczinka, Craig Valenti and Mark Zorbo.

Since the Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League is the only senior Babe Ruth loop in Berkshire County, the league's all-star team does not have to play in a county tournament and goes directly to the states each year without playing a game. The local team, however, has never won a Western State title, faring best when it placed fourth with a record of 2-2 in 1981.

The team will leave from the Springside House on upper North Street tomorrow morning at 9:15. League president Mickey McGinty said there is still a need for parents of friends to assist in transporting the team to Holyoke. Anyone who can help provide trasnportation is asked to meet at the Springside House at 9 a.m.

Youth baseball roundup July 22, 1983

Maiorano's posts 12-4 win

SENIOR BABE RUTH: Cliff Smead connected for two doubles and a triple while Jim DiMaina and Jeff Chandler each contributed a single and a double as Maiorano's downed the Eagles 12-4 in the Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League.

Winning pitcher Kevin Stanard helped his own cause with a single and two RBI, and Leo Kruczkowski added a pair of hits. Wayne McCauley had three hits for the Eagles. Gary Honiker was the losing pitcher.

Babe Ruth tournaments July 23, 1983

Pittsfield Seniors lose 7-5 in Holyoke

HOLYOKE — The Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League all-stars went down to defeat yesterday in the opening round of the Western State 16-to-18-year old Babe Ruth League tournament, bowing by a 7-5 score to Holy Cross of Springfield.

The loss dropped the Senior stars into the losers' bracket of the eight-team, double-elimination tournament, meaning the Pittsfield team will meet Sturbridge in a game today at 11 a.m. at Mackenzie Field. The winner of that game will advance to second-round losers' bracket play tomorrow at 11. Yesterday's loss means that the Pittsfield seniors now have to win five straight games to win the Western State title.

With the score tied at 3-3 yesterday, Pittsfield's Scott Haring doubled in one run and scored on an error to give the Senior stars a 5-3 lead. But Holy Cross rallied for four runs in the top of the seventh to pull out the triumph.

Haring had two singles and three RBI to go with his double on the day, while Kevin Stannard also helped the Pittsfield effort with a 3-for-4 performance. Starter Cliff Smead, who worked into the seventh before being relieved by Pat Anello, was the losing pitcher.

The Pittsfield Senior all-stars have never won a Western State title. The team makes the Western State tournament automatically each year because the Pittsfield League is the only Senior Babe Ruth League in the Berkshires, and there is thus no county all-star tournament.

Americans play today

The Berkshire County champion Pittsfield Americans open play today at 2 p.m. in the Western State 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League tournament at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester.

The Americans meet the West Side all-stars of Worcester in today's game. If they win, they play tomorrow at 2 p.m. against the winner of today's game between Westfield and the host Tom Ash League of Worcester. If the Americans lose today, they play the Westfield-Tom Ash loser tomorrow at 5 p.m.

The seven-team, double-elimination tournament runs through Thursday.

More sports on Page 36

AUG 1 1983

Youth baseball roundup

Mystic Lodge wins Senior Ruth crown

SENIOR BABE RUTH: Mystic Lodge edged Adams Co-Operative Bank 3-1 yesterday to win the Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League 1983 championship.

Mystic Lodge had won the second half with a record of 6-1, while Adams had beaten Maiorano's Driving School to capture the first-half title with a 7-1 mark.

Pat Anello pitched a four-hitter and struck out five as Mystic Lodge triumphed in the playoff contest. Anello outdueled Adams' Mike Gladu, who also gave up just four hits and struck out seven despite taking the loss. Ray Hover had two of the four hits for Mystic Lodge.

Mystic Lodge had wrapped up the second-half crown by scoring an 8-1 win over Burger King. Winning pitcher Hover racked up nine strikeouts and Sean Carroll had a single and a double to spark Mystic Lodge in that contest, while Chris Apple had two hits for Burger King.

In other regular-season action, Adams edged Maiorano's 5-4 as Bob Kittler hurled a five-hitter and struck out five. Cliff Smead took the loss despite tossing a three-hitter for Maiorano's.

* * * *

BABE RUTH LEAGUE: Jeff Astore pitched a one-hitter and struck out 14 Saturday as General Electric edged Lipton Energy 5-4 in eight innings in a Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League game at Deming Field.

Astore outdueled Lipton's Shaun Kirchner, who also went the distance and struck out 13 despite taking the loss. Marty Streit and Brian French had two hits each for GE, while Jim Telladira's triple was the only hit of the game for Lipton's.

In other action, winning pitcher Dave Angeli helped his own cause with two home runs — one a grand slam — as VFW downed Union Federal 18-2. Mark Sinopoli added two singles and two doubles for VFW. Barry Moynihan, Angeli and Joe Bishop combined to hurl a two-hitter.

Pitcher Jim Kordana raced home on a wild pitch with two outs in the bottom of the seventh to give Hermann Alexander's a 10-9 triumph over GEAA. Mike Lucido had two hits and Scott Goddard added a two-run triple for Alexander's, while Bill Noble went 3-for-4 and Steve Wieber added a pair of hits for GEAA.

Paul Gilardi pitched a five-hitter and drove in three runs with a pair of hits as IUE Local 255 topped Adams Super Markets at Reid Middle School. Pete Selkowitz had four hits and Joe Sondrini added two for IUE . Frank Ott had two hits and three RBI for Adams.

Area sports

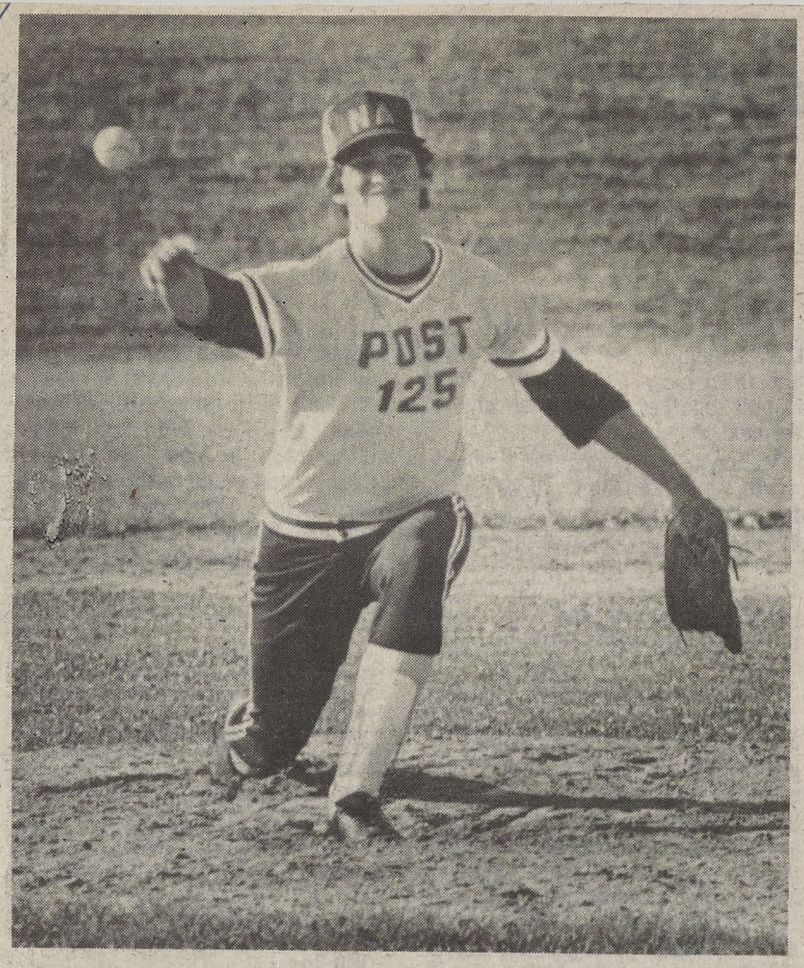
JUN 25 1983

Parks' tee ball sign-up begins Monday

FLEA LEAGUE: Registration for the Department of Parks and Recreation's Flea League, which is now a tee ball league, will be next Monday through Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at Sackett Brook Park on Williams Street. Girls and boys aged 5 to 7 who live in Pittsfield are eligible.

Team rosters and schedules will be distributed July 1 at 10 a.m. Games will be played weekday mornings between 10 and 11:30 beginning July 5. The league is recreational and instructional, stressing fundamentals and sportsmanship. Further information may be obtained from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

FLEA LEA





Photos by Susan Plageman

PITCHERS' DUEL between North Adams ace Kevin Chenail, left, and the Friendship Tyler Aces' Matt Sheran was the highlight of last night's American Legion showdown between their teams at the Taconic High field.

JUN 30 1983

FLEA LEA



Susan Plageman

FIRST TEAM All-Berkshire baseball selections include, left to right: kneeling in front — co-MVP Matt Sheran; Standing, first row — Sean McMahon, Ken Ferris, Paul Gaylord, Tom Kinne and Matt Ringie; back row — Tim Gauthier, Tom Gauthier, Kevin Chenail, Mike Donati and Craig Turnbull. MVP co-winner Kevin Kinne is still touring with a U.S. all-star team and was absent for the picture.

JUL 1 1983

JUL 1 1983